Hafa Adai!

NMI govt, Settlement Fund agree on payment plan. **PAGE 3**

Guma Sakman MOU is extended. **PAGE 8**

75¢

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MVA board loses Kaipat

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cinta M. Kaipat has resigned as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors.

MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce confirmed yesterday that Kaipat sent her resignation letter shortly after the MVA board meeting last Tuesday.

Asked for comments, Kaipat said her decision to leave the board is personal and should not be misconstrued as anything but that.

See MVA on **Page 4**

At least 8 dead after Nigeria school collapsed

By SAM OLUKOYA and CARLEY PETESCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Emergency crews sifted through debris as night fell on frantic efforts to rescue scores of school children and others feared trapped inside a three-story building that collapsed Wednesday in Nigeria's densely populated commercial capital, Lagos. At least eight people were confirmed dead and 37 others were rescued alive.

See NIGERIA on **Page 4**

PCF alumni list expands by 12

The Class of 2018 of the Pacific Century Fellows pose for a photo after their graduation ceremony yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The list of individuals who have successfully hurdled the leadership program called Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter has added 12 new names.

Last Wednesday night, the fifth batch of PCF participants officially completed the program with a graduation ceremony.

The 12 new PCF alumni are Norman Del Rosario, Christian Delos Santos, Maxine Laszlo, Katherine Mersai, Ryan Meyerhoff, Mark Rabago, Charlie Rivera, Melanie Santos, Jamika Taijeron, Natasha Tomokane, Joshua Wise, and Raymond Zapanta.

According to Jerry Tan, chairman of the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter, it's always great and exciting to have more young lead-

See PCF on **Page 4**

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

Maisie B. Tenorio

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Ideally, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault should report the abuse and get help. However, there are also victims who opt to stay, keep silent, and endure. That's the tough shell that the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence wants to crack.

Maisie B. Tenorio, however, says that the coalition, of which she is the executive director, doesn't do it in a ham-handed manner. What they have is more of an open-handed offer of help.

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Boeing's new best-selling airliner has turned into the company's biggest headache.
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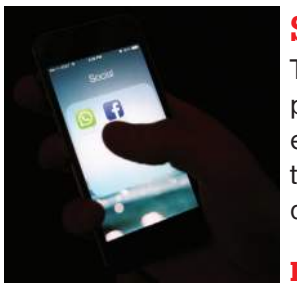

SCIENCE & TECH
The latest parental panic on social media elevates the importance of an open dialogue with children.
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LIFE & STYLE
Captain Marvel possesses superhuman strength and, it turns out, the ability to vanquish trolls.
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Local

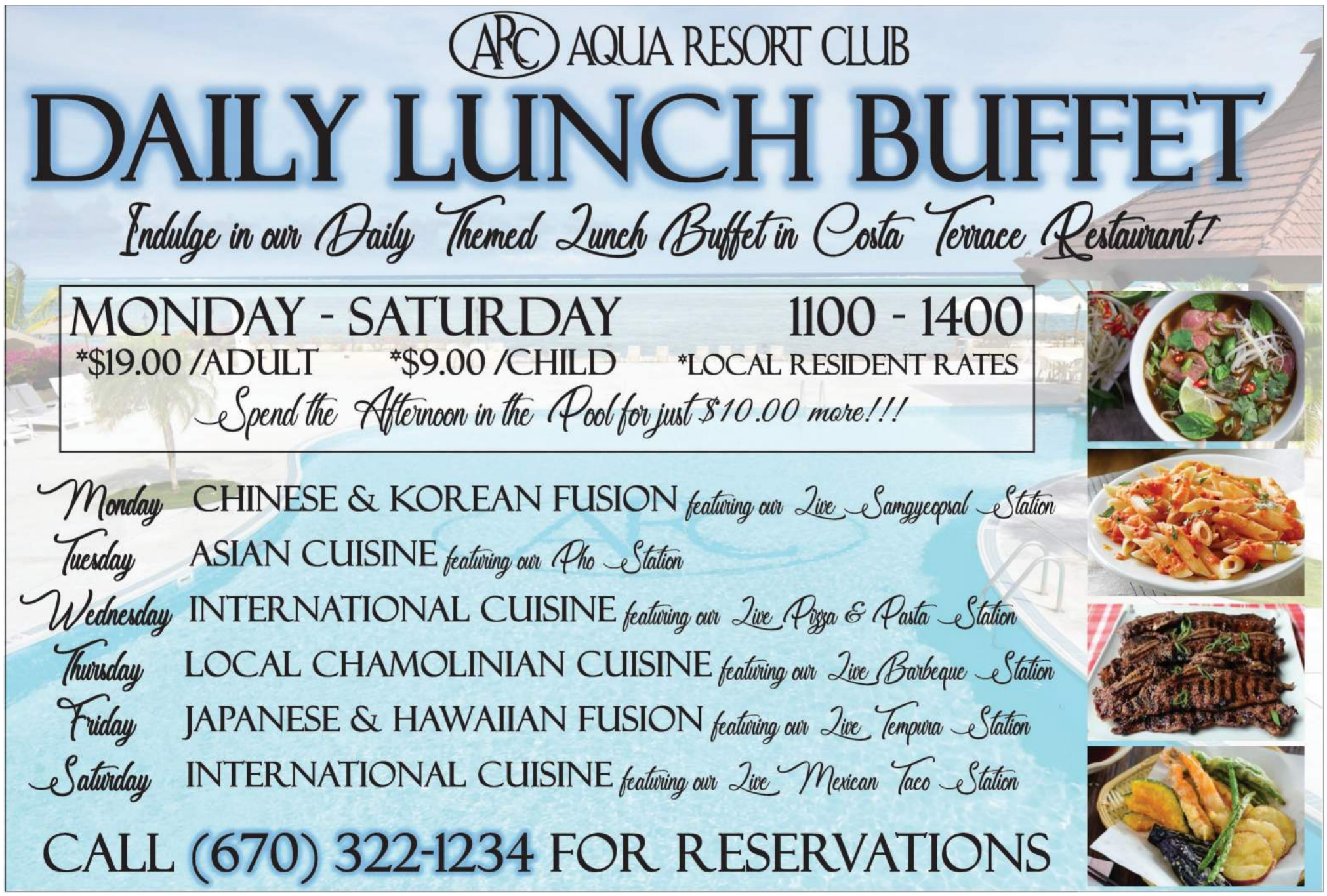
Interior give $853,590 for Prior Service Trust Fund

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech has authorized a payment of $853,590 in fiscal year 2019 funding for the Prior Service Trust Fund administration, which distributes benefits to former employees of the post-World War II, U.S.-administered, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the Western Pacific

"The United States continues to meet its commitment to 771 beneficiaries who previously served in the U.S.-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," said Domenech. "The Prior Service beneficiaries are elderly persons who rely on these monthly checks in varying amounts from $25 to $65 to pay for medicine, food, utilities, and even telephone service."

Employee benefits provided through the Prior Service Trust Fund represent a responsibility assumed by the federal government following the dissolution of the TTPI in 1986.

The four jurisdictions to emerge from the TTPI were the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PR)***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NMI govt, Settlement Fund agree on payment plan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Faced with a cash flow and reserves problems in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation, the CNMI government and the NMI Settlement Fund have agreed on a payment plan in order for the Commonwealth to pay the remaining $4.8 million balance owed under the $15.1 million Minimum Annual Payment due by the end of this month.

The CNMI government, the NMI Settlement Fund, and Betty Johnson filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday an agreement regarding payment of the second quarter Minimum Annual Payment.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan signed the agreement as counsel for the CNMI government. Dean Manglona and Margery S. Bronster signed as counsel for the NMI Settlement Fund and Johnson, respectively.

Under the 2013 settlement agreement in Johnson's class action, the CNMI government is required to pay the second quarterly MAP in the amount of $15,130,000 on or before March 31, 2019.

MAP may be paid in irregular installments over the course of the fiscal year they are due, but the CNMI must pay at least 15 percent of the annual payment by the end of the first quarter of each fiscal year; 50 percent by the end of the first six months of the fiscal year; 70 percent by the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year; and the balance by the end of the fiscal year.

The parties said the balance on the second quarterly MAP on March 31, 2019, is $4,758,334.

Following Yutu in October 2018, the government has had to fund many emergency projects and the recovery effort with the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has placed a tremendous financial burden on the CNMI government's cash flow and reserves.

Settlement Fund trustee representative Joyce C.H. Tang and the CNMI government agreed to the payment plan to avoid a breach in the settlement agreement in Johnson's lawsuit and because of the exceptional circumstances brought by Yutu.

The payment schedule would bring the government current on its MAP weekly payments and require the government to pay the remaining balance of $4.8 million by no later than April 30, 2019.

In a meeting among Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, FEMA deputy regional administrator William Roche, Tang, Settlement Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan, and other representatives of the CNMI government, Roche confirmed that the CNMI government will receive $11 million from the federal government on or before April 30, 2019.

The parties agree that the CNMI government will notify the Settlement Fund when it has received all or portions of the FEMA payment in its bank account.

Upon receiving the FEMA payment, the parties said, the CNMI government shall immediately pay to the Settlement Fund the unpaid portion of the $4.8 million balance, and the amount required to bring the weekly MAP payments current.

For the remaining three weeks of March 2019, the CNMI government will pay the Settlement Fund $700,000 a week, to be applied against the $4.8 million remaining balance.

The $700,000 weekly payments will continue through the third quarter (April 1 to June 30, 2019) for 13 weeks.

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4.9-magnitude quake in Northern Islands again

The Northern Islands was struck by yet another earthquake.

According to a statement from the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred yesterday at 1:15pm, at 120 miles east northeast of Agrihan.

Homeland Security reports that there were no personnel injuries or damages to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

Multiple earthquakes were seen just last month off the coast of Pagan and Agrihan.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

NIGERIA

From Page 1

■■■

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Search and rescue work continues in Nigeria a day after a building containing a school collapsed with scores of children said to be inside.

A National Emergency Management Agency spokesman late Wednesday said 37 people had been pulled out alive, with eight bodies recovered from the ruins.

An unknown number remain missing.

It is not yet known what caused the collapse of the three-story building in a densely crowded neighborhood at the heart of Nigeria' commercial capital, Lagos.

Building collapses are all too common in the West African nation, where new construction often goes up without regulatory oversight.

Lagos state Gov. Akinwunmi Ambode has said the building, which had been marked for demolition, was classified as residential and the school was operating illegally on the top two floors.

■■■

Anguished families crowded around the flattened remains of the building, which housed an elementary school, holding out hope that more children would still be found alive in the wreckage.

Scenes of jubilation erupted earlier in the day when a man was brought out alive. But the mood shifted dramatically an hour later when another man was brought out dead. The rescue of a woman carried to an ambulance on a stretcher was greeted with cries of, "She's not dead!" in the local Yoruba language.

The evening call to prayer could be heard as hundreds anxiously waited in the city's Ita Faji neighborhood trying to help in rescue efforts. Using flashlights, some people pulled what looked like clothing from the ruins. In the crowd, a baby cried.

As many as 100 children had been in the primary school on the building's top floors, witnesses said.

"It touches one to lose precious lives in any kind of mishap, particularly those so young and tender," Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said.

Earlier, Associated Press video showed rescuers in yellow vests carrying dust-covered, stunned-looking children from the rubble, to cheers from hundreds who had rushed to the scene. But the crowd quieted as others were pulled out slung over rescuers' shoulders, unmoving.

The children were hurried to ambulances. One man pressed his hands to a passing survivor's head in blessing.

More equipment was brought in as nightfall approached. National Emergency Management Agency spokesman Ibrahim Farinloye said 37 people had been pulled out alive, while eight bodies were recovered from the ruins. An unknown number remained missing.

It was not immediately clear why the building collapsed, but such disasters are all too common in Nigeria, where new construction often goes up without regulatory oversight and floors are added to already unstable buildings.

Lagos state Gov. Akinwunmi Ambode said the building, which had been marked for demolition, was classified as residential and the school was operating illegally on the top two floors.

He promised a full investigation once rescue operations were concluded and vowed that those responsible would be prosecuted.

"I want to commiserate with the families of those that lost their lives in this collapsed building," the governor said in a post on his Facebook page that also urged onlookers to "give the rescue workers the chance to save more lives."

The children's rights group Plan International Nigeria called on the Lagos state government to "launch an inquiry into the incident, and ensure that all persons found culpable for dereliction of duties are punished."

"This incident has further highlighted the urgent need ... to take urgent action on issues of safety in schools across the country," country director Hussaini Abdu said.

Ambode, the state governor, said his deputy was visiting hospitals and that the government would cover the hospital bills of survivors. "All we are interested in now is to save more lives and also see how those that have been rescued are put in proper place and proper care," he said.

Earlier in the day, anxious onlookers stood in narrow streets and on rooftops of rusted, corrugated metal, watching the rescue efforts. With emotions high, a number of shirtless men jumped in to offer assistance, hacksaws and mallets in hand. Some were barefoot. Some were bare-handed. One held a water bottle in his teeth.

The collapse came as Buhari, newly elected to a second term as president, tries to improve groaning, inefficient infrastructure in Africa's most populous nation.

In a recent report, the International Monetary Fund noted the state of the country's crumbling infrastructure.

"Nigeria's infrastructure is generally less than half the size than in the average sub-Saharan Africa country and only a fraction of that in emerging market economies," the report said. "The perceived quality of the infrastructure is low."

VEHICULAR ACCIDENT

A vehicle was involved in an accident yesterday along Middle Road. It is not immediately known if there was somebody who got hurt.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ERRATUM

In the news story published last Tuesday about the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Yutu expenses, it was reported that CUC acting chief financial officer Corina Magofna stated in her report that of the $15.2-million expense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has already reimbursed CUC $11.1 million, leaving a $4.1-million balance as of March 2. Magofna clarified that, to date, they have not received any reimbursement yet. She explained that the $11.1 million is what CUC has already paid upfront. Our apologies.

MVA

From Page 1

"No bad vibes. It's all good. I leave with lots of love and respect for all," said Kaipat, who is a lawyer.

She said she loved her time on the MVA board and enjoyed working with the wonderful professionals on the board and staff.

"My experience was both rewarding and enriching," she added.

Aldan-Pierce said she reached out to Kaipat to find out more about her reason for stepping down and that Kaipat replied that it was a personal matter that she did not wish to elaborate on.

The chair said Kaipat added that she has enjoyed working with the board and staff tremendously and was sorry she had to exit.

"Cinta was our expert on local culture on the board," Aldan-Pierce said, citing that it was due to Kaipat's recommendation that they added the *mwar* (head lei) on the Saipan sign in Marpi.

Aldan-Pierce said Kaipat's vision was to ensure that the Chamolinian culture (Chamorro and Carolinian cultures) is properly showcased throughout the islands for all visitors to experience.

"We are very sad to see her go. But I asked her to be as active in MVA activities as possible," Aldan-Pierce said.

She conceded that the resignation took them by surprise so the board hadn't met yet to discuss a recommendation to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for her replacement, but they will do so.

The board still has a quorum even with Kaipat's departure.

Kaipat attended the board meeting last Tuesday, the day when MVA managing director Christopher Attao Concepcion also announced that he is leaving the agency.

At the meeting, it was Kaipat who led the MVA board members and some MVA staff in giving Concepcion a standing ovation.

Kaipat, who is also a former lawmaker, joined the MVA board last July after Torres appointed her to represent Saipan.

At that time, Kaipat had hoped to bring to the MVA board her experience as a previous cultural dancer for tourists as well as her experience in the Legislature as a former representative.

Kaipat is credited with creating the Beautify CNMI Program when she was still a member of the CNMI House of Representatives.

PCF

From Page 1

ers in the community who are equipped with the knowledge needed to make a change.

The intent and the objective of the PCF is to groom and develop the Commonwealth's future leaders.

"After each class, we're adding many fellows into the alumni and welcoming a new cohort. [We look] forward to their participation in the community," he said.

Tan emphasized that it is all about helping to build a better Commonwealth. "It is all through leaders that we would have a bright future for the Commonwealth, so it is… very exciting to see another class graduate, another group of fellows [who will] continue to have that dialogue and conversation in the community to take on those challenging issues that Commonwealth is facing and make a difference," he said.

Maxine Laszlo, PCF graduate and Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director, said that the departments, businesses, and agencies in the Commonwealth are full of passionate leaders trying to make the community better. Through the PCF Program, there is a realization that there are usually complicated underlying reasons why issues aren't being addressed, she added.

"I learned more in depth about the many complex problems that impact our community, but I also learned that behind every problem, there are advocates who are trying to do something about it. Because of PCF, I feel like I have the tools to reach out and try to be a part of the solution instead of contributing to the problems," she said.

Charlie Rivera, PCF graduate and computer graphic artist for Tropical Printing Press Inc., said that a lot of topics and issues they covered during the program stood out and it's always interesting to learn of things about a place you consider your home.

"It is upon us, as young leaders, to hold on to those aspiration and ambitions. It was a really good program. The networking itself, the people you meet in the government and private sector, it's just great. It will give you a plethora of information and, sometimes, it's overwhelming but it's good. I plan to share what I have learned," he said.

Matthew Deleon Guerrero, a former chief of staff of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios also spoke at the event.

The PCF Marianas Chapter is patterned after Pacific Century Fellows of Hawaii and its founder, former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann, was also in attendance and delivered a few words.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

'We see you, we believe you'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

An ideal situation is one where victims of domestic violence and sexual assault report the abuse and get help but there are also victims who opt to stay, keep silent, and endure. That's the tough shell that the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence wants to crack.

Maisie B. Tenorio, however, says that the coalition, of which she is the executive director, doesn't do it in a ham-handed manner. What they have is more of an open-handed offer of help.

Whether the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault report the matter to authorities or not, the coalition assures the community that help is available, the NMCADSV executive director said.

"Our mission here is to promote, nourish and sustain a collective movement against violence here in the CNMI as we want to create a CNMI where everybody feels safe," she said.

"We see you and we believe you. …If there's anything that we can do to help you heal and move past the trauma, please let us know," she added.

In her many years of commitment and work with the coalition, Tenorio said that domestic violence and sexual assault happens every day, but many survivors do not report for whatever reason [and] we don't judge them for that.

"What people don't often understand is that, when you see a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault and you have never experienced that kind of trauma, we tend to look at the decision…and ask why they are staying. Sometimes they make decisions based on what they need in order to survive," she added.

The coalition, a non-profit organization, has been in existence since March 21, 2007, and Tenorio is one of the founding members.

"We are not a direct service provider but a partner to our members like Karidat [Social Services] as they work on the ground directly with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, etc. Another one of our members is Cornerstone Christian Church, which is a faith-based organization but they provide service to their congregation and other people," she said.

A portion of the coalition's work is public awareness and educating the community about all things that fall under that umbrella of violence and abuse. The coalition also work with the Department of Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. The U.S. Congress has also asked the coalition for comments on related legislation.

"We work with other agencies so that we can serve victims in the most effective way. We fill those spaces where we can build their capacity. …With DPS, we train them how to respond to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault such as 'this is what victims ask for. They need compassion and to be believed.' There have been laws where we helped change or update the law on sexual sentencing which…is a huge part of our response system," Tenorio said.

Tenorio

"As the CNMI is so diverse, we do talk about cultural sensitivity. …We may not have all the answers and we don't know all the cultures intimately but one thing that remains the same is that we all experience trauma, pain. So, we may not understand the cultural issues that came about that the person is experiencing but one can definitely empathize with the trauma and pain. [In] trainings, we point out that this is where you need to hone in on because everyone can relate to that," she added.

According to Tenorio, the coalition spends a lot of time with the youth because children are not the future but the "now." "They're the ones who are going to effect change and we recognize and know the power of young people. We empower the kids with education and information, with the skill," she said.

The coalition is not only working on Saipan but Rota and Tinian, too.

Her vision for the CNMI is where any one, male or female, who is a victim of abuse can come out and "we surround this person as a community and we lift them up. …I hope that when survivors see our work they will know that we have their best interests at heart."

The coalition will be celebrating its 12th anniversary by recognizing the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The proclamation signing ceremony will be on April 2 at 10am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe and at the SAFE Jamboree on April 27 from 11am to 4pm, to be held at Garapan Central Park. For more inquiries, call (670)234-3878 and (670)898-3878.

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Art-in-the-Park at the AMP

The American Memorial Park announced yesterday the 3rd Annual Art-in-the-Park series. During the months of March and April, American Memorial Park is partnering with local artists and organizations to provide free art classes to the community. All ages are welcome to join us in creating amazing art!

- March 23: Banana Painting, 9am – noon, Joy Rankin
- March 30: Painted Pots, 9am – noon, Kimberly Mendiola
- April 6: Wood painting with acrylic, 9am – noon, Meena Benavente
- April 13: Blueprints (Cyanotype), 9am – noon, Erlinda Babauta

At the end of the art sessions, on April 20, artwork will be displayed at the Visitor Center for the public to enjoy.

Space is limited so register soon! To register for a class, visit the American Memorial Park Visitor Center, which is open daily from 9am to 4pm.

For questions contact education coordinator Nataline Kaneshi at 234-7207 or 234-2020, or email nkaneshi@pacifichistoricparks.org. ***(PR)***

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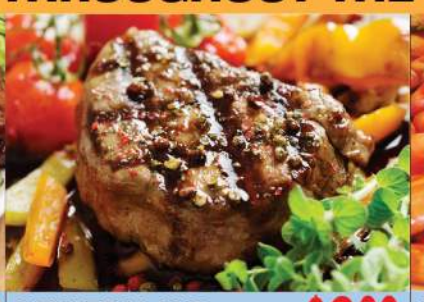
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Guma Sakman MOU is extended

The memorandum of understanding between the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and nonprofit group 500 Sails was extended for one year, ensuring the continued existence of the Guma Sakman and the continuation of the group's swimming, sailing and canoe building programs.

"500 Sails extends its heartfelt thanks to DLNR Secretary Tony Benavente, the 500 Sails board of directors, and the many program participants and supporters who stepped forward to help ensure the continuation of our…programs," said 500 Sails officials in a statement.

The organization said the over 2,000 signatures on the change.org petition "showed how the community felt" about extending 500 Sails' use of the lot where the Guma Sakman is located at the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

Among the comments contained in the petition include the following: "This is a great location for 500 Sails and the swimming program. Please keep it going for our children and our community."

Also: "I have personally seen the work of 500 Sails and the benefits the organization provides to the community. We need to support their efforts and allow them a permanent place to continue the work of building the traditional canoes. The CNMI should embrace the work that 500 Sails is doing and promote a true Indigenous Marianas tradition. I fully support 500 Sails!"

For more information about 500 Sails programs, visit the 500 Sails Facebook page at https://www.facebook.

Saipan Vegas to mark 2nd anniversary

Saipan Vegas Golf Resort and Slot Club will celebrate its second birthday on Sunday, March 17.

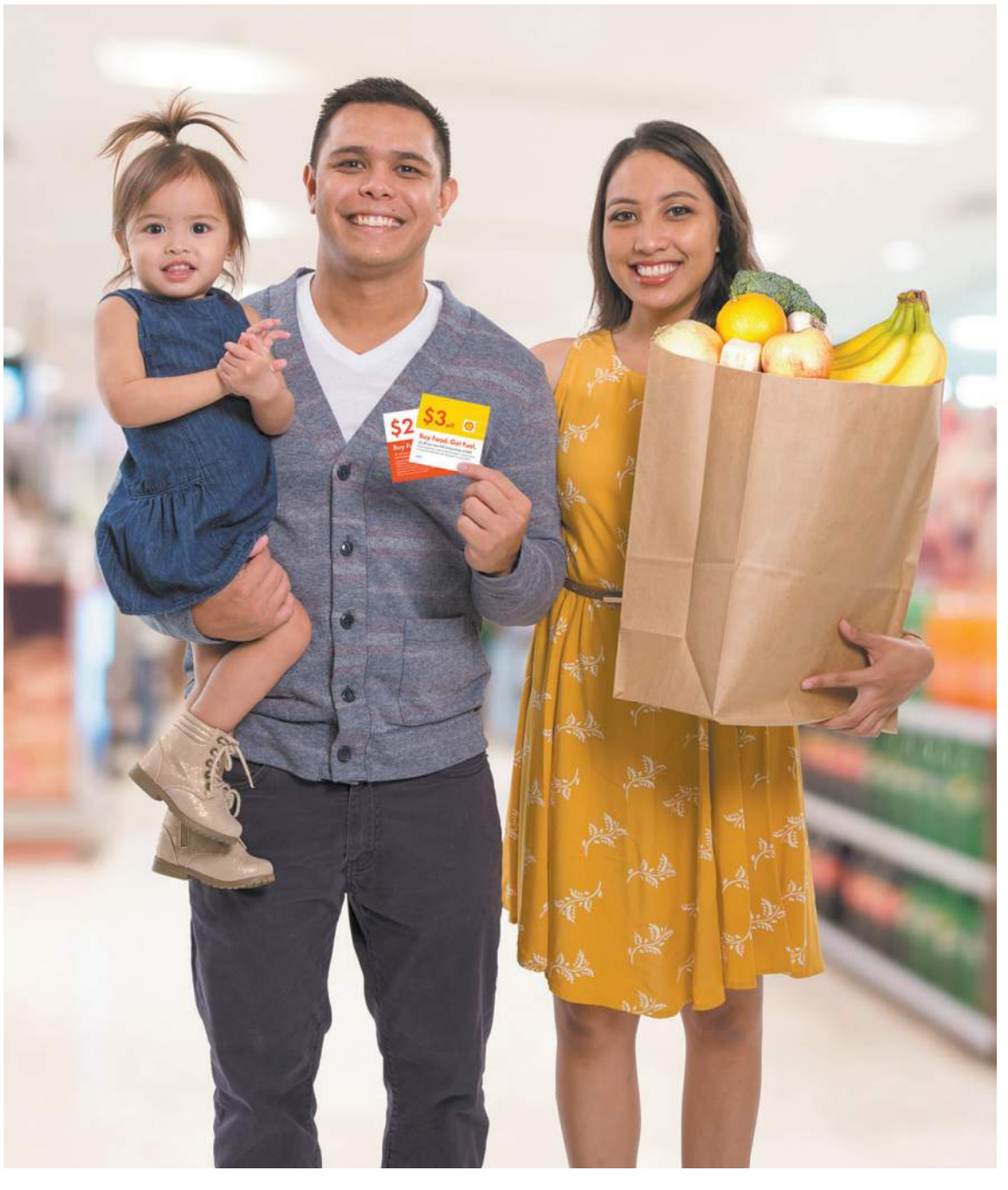
Saipan Vegas is the owner of the Saipan Country Club, the first golf course on Saipan, built and developed a uniquely designed prefabricated modular 50-room budget hotel, and is the operator of the Saipan Vegas Slot Club.

In just two years, Saipan Vegas Resort has developed a niche market in the tourist sector for the budget traveler, while providing discounted accommodation for island residents who are looking for reasonably priced accommodation, with golf and gaming offerings.

As a small business on Saipan, Saipan Vegas has made a significant contribution to the local economy, with a policy of 100-percent local employment, significant investments in the golf course, the 50-room budget hotel, and a top-class gaming venue.

Saipan Vegas continues to invest in the local economy, with a soon-to-be-opened extension to the 50-room hotel to expand to 100 rooms, and expansions planned on the second floor of the venue soon.

"With the support of the local community, the local government and all government agencies, we have been able in a short period to develop a sustainable and successful business on Saipan that contributes to the local economy, with payment of taxes, employing locals and ongoing investments in the economy," said group consultant Gus Noble. "We also have some exciting plans to continue to develop our business on Saipan and are confident in our future as a local CNMI business contributing to the local economy. Come celebrate our second birthday buffet lunch with fun giveaways and big cash draw of $5,000 on Sunday, March 17." ***(PR)***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PATA Micronesia sets Marshall Islands meeting

KOROR, Palau—The 1st Tri-annual Meeting of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia Chapter will be held on April 2-4, 2019, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"The PATA Micronesia board and membership are excited to return to the beautiful Marshall Islands for our first meeting of 2019," said Stephanie Nakamura, PATA Micronesia chairwoman. "We warmly welcome the membership of agencies, businesses, and individuals who are interested in working with other chapter members in our common passion of sharing the beauty of Micronesia with the world.

Membership, Education; Cultural, Heritage & Education; and Marketing Committee meetings will be held in Majuro on April 2.

The PATA Micronesia general membership meeting will be held on April 3 on the neighboring island of Eneko.

Participants will also be hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Commerce and the Office of Commerce, Investment, and Tourism. The final day will be open for tours.

PATA is a membership association of the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry. The PATA Micronesia Chapter consists of members from the Micronesia region directly in the tourism industry, including national and state tourism offices.

In partnership with PATA's private and public sector members, the organization enhances the sustainable growth, value and quality of travel and tourism to, from, and within the region.

The PATA Micronesia Chapter conducts regular meetings throughout the region.

Membership may be renewed or applied for online at www.patamicronesia.com.

A special PATA travel rate to Majuro will be extended to chapter members in good standing.

For more information on PATA, contact Nakamura at sn@pristineparadisepalau.com or visit www.patamicronesia.com. ***(PR)***

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USCIS to close its overseas offices

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK (Reuters)—President Donald Trump's administration is planning to close the U.S. immigration agency's overseas locations, according to current and former officials and an internal memo, in a move affecting offices that currently handle family visa requests, international adoptions and other tasks.

The move is the latest from an administration that has worked to limit both legal and illegal immigration since Trump took office in January 2017, including cuts to the U.S. refugee program and heightened vetting of U.S. visa applications.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director Francis Cissna, in an email message to agency employees, announced plans for closure of the international field offices. The plans called for shifting those duties to U.S.-based agency offices and American consulates and embassies abroad.

The agency, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, currently operates 23 offices overseas, scattered across Latin America, Europe and Asia, according to the agency's website.

The agency offices carry out services including: helping American citizens who want to bring relatives to the United States; processing refugee applications; enabling overseas citizenship applications; and assisting Americans who want to adopt foreign children, according to its website.

The international offices can also process naturalizations of U.S. military service members who are not already U.S. citizens. USCIS officers abroad also look for fraud in visa applications and provide technical immigration advice to other U.S. government officials.

On Monday, senior USCIS officials told employees within its Refugee Asylum and International Operations division that the agency had decided to close its overseas posts, one current and one former official said. The closures will happen over the next year and some of the offices' tasks likely will be shifted to the State Department, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Change can be difficult and can cause consternation," Cissna wrote, but said the agency is committed to implementing "as smooth a transition as possible."

In places where USCIS does not have overseas posts, the State Department already carries out some of its duties, such as replacing green cards for American legal permanent residents who have lost theirs.

International USCIS staff provide support to U.S. officials who travel abroad to interview refugee applicants.

'Pulling up the drawbridge'

The administration has put in place new barriers for asylum seekers, barred citizens of several Muslim-majority countries from traveling to the United States and pushed new rules that would make it harder for low-income immigrants to become legal permanent American residents.

Advocates expressed concern that the move to close down overseas offices would create additional roadblocks for vulnerable applicants.

"They are doing an across-the-board effort to dismantle the capacity of this country to process refugees and immigrants legally," said Mark Hetfield, president of the U.S. refugee assistance organization HIAS. "It is not consistent with what President Trump said in the State of the Union (address), which is that he wants immigrants to come here, that he wants them to come here legally."

"This is another example of the administration pulling up the drawbridge," Hetfield added.

Leon Rodriguez, USCIS director under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, said the shift may have been aimed at cutting costs and that most duties now performed internationally by USCIS likely will be delegated to U.S. consulates abroad.

"Symbolically it is retreating from an international presence," Rodriguez said.

Agency spokeswoman Jessica Collins said by email: "As we have internally shared, USCIS is in preliminary discussions to consider shifting its international USCIS office workloads to USCIS domestic offices in the United States and, where practicable, to U.S. embassies and consulates abroad."

"The goal of any such shift would be to maximize USCIS resources that could then be reallocated, in part, to backlog reduction efforts," Collins said.

The agency will work closely with the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security "to ensure no interruption in the provision of immigration services to affected applicants and petitioners," Collins added.

USCIS has in the past decided to close individual offices based on demand for its services. The agency previously announced that its Moscow field office will permanently close at the end of this month, citing a "significant decrease in workload."

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Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby in March

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 15th Annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby on March 20, 2019.

The derby will start at 6am and will conclude at 5pm the same day, launching from Smiling Cove Marina.

Prizes will include $1,000 cash for first place with remaining placement prizes to be announced.

The registration fee is $100 per boat, including one captain and one angler, and $10 for each additional angler. Pre-registration will be March 29 from 4:30pm to 6pm at the Smiling Cove Marina weighing station. Derby officials from the SFA will also brief participants on the rules and regulations of the competition.

"The Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby is not only a great hit for local fisherman, but also an annual event that fishermen from Guam and other areas look forward to every year," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher. A. Concepcion. "The MVA is pleased to an annual sponsor of this event, which gives visiting fishermen the opportunity to troll the beautiful, deep blue waters of the Marianas."

Spectators are invited to see the day's catch as fishermen begin returning to Smiling Cove Marina at approximately 4pm on derby day. Event organizers are reminding participants that no catch will be entered after the 5pm deadline. The awards party will immediately take place after the derby at Smiling Cove Marina immediately after the event.

For more information about the derby, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at 664-3200/01 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Nelson A. Mendoza graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Nelson A. Mendoza Jr. has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is a 2018 graduate of Marianas High School. ***(Joint Hometown News Service)***

Over 400 junk cars collected

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office has collected over 400 junk cars and is expecting to collect more as the days move forward.

Saipan Mayor's Office director of field operations Joann Aquino noted Wednesday that, as of Tuesday, their office has already collected a total of 428 junk cars since the start of fiscal year last Oct. 1, 2019.

She noted that the 428 junk cars were collected within the first two quarters of the fiscal year, which is October through December and January through March. The second quarter of the fiscal year ends on March 31, 2019.

The 428 junk cars collected also covers the time of Super Typhoon Yutu's immediate recovery, when the Saipan Mayor's Office reverted to typhoon debris collection operations.

As of yesterday, Aquino noted that majority of the junk cars had been cleared for disposal, unless tagged by the Commonwealth Zoning Board. According to her records, there are two junk cars awaiting pick up in Dandan, four in Finasisu, and two in Garapan, to name a few.

According to Aquino, most of the new junk car requests are from Kagman.

"We still have quite a few junk cars pending in Kagman. We are going to get to it. At the rate we are going, we are doing it quickly," she said, adding that they are prioritizing the backlog of requests from before Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck the CNMI late October 2018.

"As a result of the typhoon we had to revert to typhoon debris collection operations. Now that we are done with that, junk car collection is now one of our priorities," she added.

Aquino also said that putting trash inside junk car delays the whole operation since the trash isn't accepted at the disposal site in Lower Base.

"When folks want their cars removed, we really highly recommend removing the trash in the junk car because the disposal site in Lower Base won't accept the vehicles," she said, adding that, if possible, tires should also be removed since it is not included in the recycling of the car.

"It takes time off of going on to the next car," she said, adding that the mayor's office skips vehicles with trash in it.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 20th birthday to our Leo Ray DLC Salalila! May your day be filled with more love and happiness. We love you always, Mommy, Daddy, Lea, Lenelle, and Leina.

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UOG study: Guam economic growth is slowing

» Promising developments on horizon

A University of Guam study predicts that the Guam economy is still growing but will do so at a slower rate in 2019, with promising developments on the horizon.

UOG professor of Economics Maria Claret Ruane, who gave business and government leaders a Guam economic update over lunch on March 13 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, highlighted new data and her latest predictions since the December release of the "2018 Guam Economic Report" by the Regional Center for Public Policy at UOG's School of Business & Public Administration.

University of Guam professor of Economics Maria Claret Ruane delivers an economic update for business and government leaders over a luncheon on March 13 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

"The theme seems to be our economy is growing, except that that growth has been slowed," Ruane said. "But there are some really promising developments."

The last three years of available data show growth of 0.5 percent in 2015, 0.3 percent in 2016, and 0.2 percent in 2017.

"I am predicting zero growth to a half-percent decline for 2018," she said. "When I see the numbers and we come out the same as last year, it's good news—just to stay where we're at."

She predicts the same zero growth to a half-percent decline for 2019, an improvement over the possible -1 percent growth she shared in December.

Co-authored by Ruane and research fellows Alex Aflague, Rebecca Casimbon, and Luisa Tenorio, the report likens Guam's $5.2-billion economy to a three-legged stool,: tourism, the military and federal government, and local businesses, consumers, and government.

Updates from her presentation include:

■ Tourism arrivals were down 2 percent in fiscal 2018 but are starting an upward trend, assisted by a recovering Japan market.

■ Federal government spending in Guam increased in fiscal 2018, with $350 million approved for Guam in the National Defense Authorization Act. She predicts the NDAA funding of $450 million for fiscal 2019 to be safe but could decrease in 2020.

■ Local consumer spending is flat but could show a slight increase in 2018 once the data is available.

■ Business spending was down in 2018 as a possible result of uncertainty with the election year and the lack of H-2B visa approvals. The H-2B situation has worsened in 2019 with the ban on H-2B workers from the Philippines.

■ The federal government shutdown in December and January shouldn't have an effect on the macroeconomy because spending from those paychecks still took place once they were received.

■ Unemployment has improved—down to 3.8 percent in June 2018 from 4.4 percent in March.

■ The number of those not participating in the workforce is down as well, from 51,660 in March to 49,380 in June.

■ Wages have been increasing, up 3 percent in the private sector and 2.8 percent in the government of Guam over the span of March to September 2018.

■ Inflation was present at 2.6 percent in 2018 but is considered low, and average wages kept pace with inflation.

Significantly, the inflation rate in 2018 reflected some of the effect of the Business Privilege Tax increase from April, which hasn't impacted prices as much as expected.

"Inflation less than 5 percent is still pretty much predictable. As businesses, you can still make plans expecting prices will go up, and it's not something to keep investors from investing into our economy," she said.

This economic report is an example of how UOG can partner with the local community, UOG president Thomas W. Krise said.

"The University of Guam can be part of the solution to every problem that we face in Guam and the region," he said. "This report is an important way of looking into the future and seeing the opportunities and threats that are facing us and thinking of ways that the university can help."

The dean of SBPA, Annette T. Santos, said the Regional Center for Public Policy, which is now in its third year, was developed to capture the data and research behind the various projects happening within the school.

"We hope that this economic report serves as a resource to plan business ideas and business strategies and that it moves beyond Guam as we engage members of our regional community as part of this forward movement in economic development," she said. ***(UOG)***

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Polly DLG. Masga has been a Human Resources (HR) professional for over 19 years. She started her HR career working for the Paris Las Vegas hotel in Las Vegas, NV as an interview specialist. She eventually moved back to Saipan and has worked in HR departments for different industries: education, visitor's industry, hotel and healthcare. She and her husband, Floyd, own and operate **ACCESS 670 Consulting**, a business aimed to assist with projects through data collection and reporting, consulting work, and training and development.

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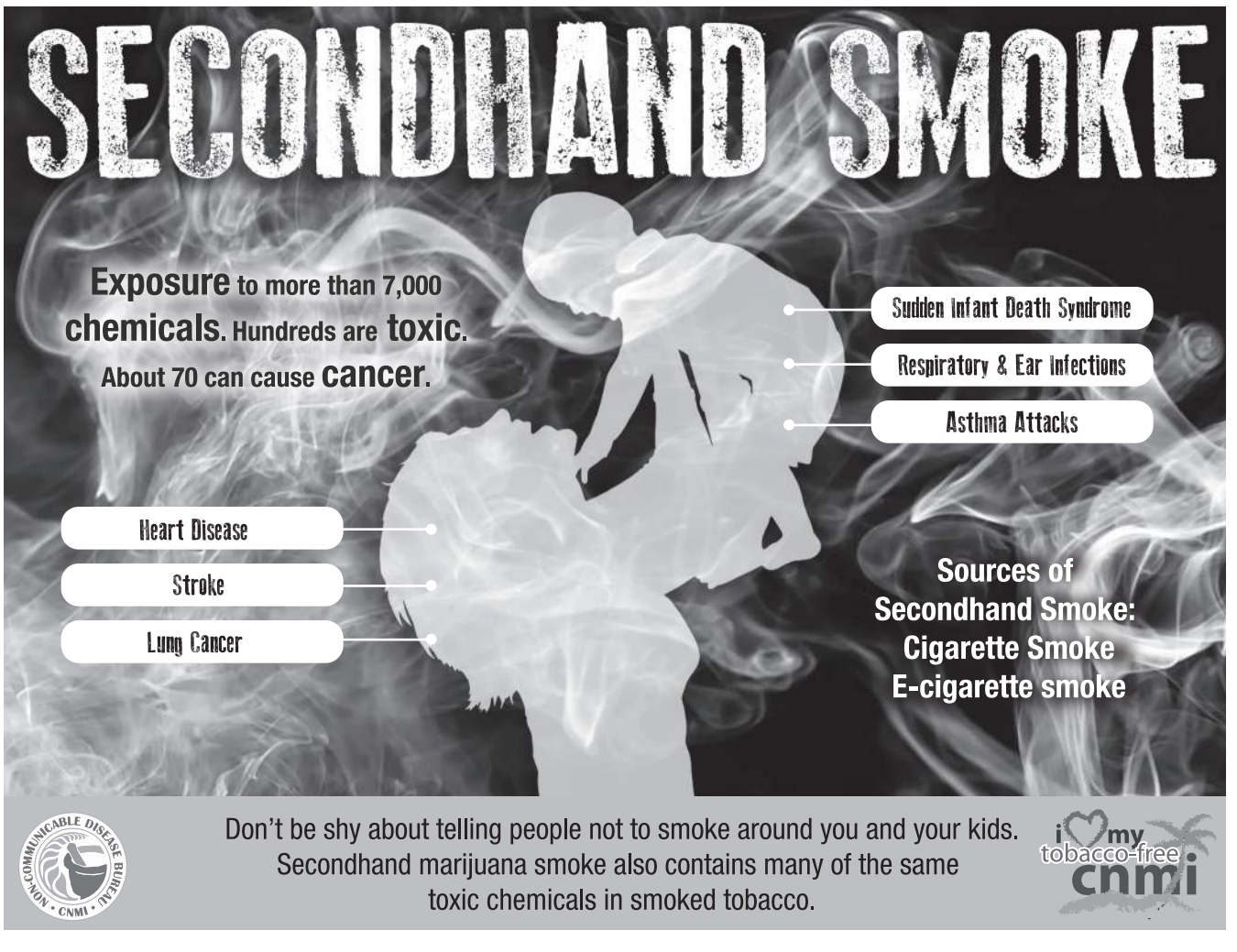

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TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB, 538 Box 10003 Saipan MP, 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 21 day of February, 2019

/s/ Clerk of Court

McDonald's Saipan donates to Ronald McDonald House

In celebration of McDonald's Saipan's 26th anniversary, the company launched its anniversary weekend with a charitable donation to the Ronald McDonald House of Charities – Hawaii.

The donation was presented at the RMHC Judd Hill House in Honolulu, Hawaii, on March 13 by McDonald's Guam and Saipan owner/operators Jose and Marcia Ayuyu.

Jerri Chong, president for RMHC-Hawaii, accepted the donation.

"We are honored to receive this donation from McDonald's of Saipan as they celebrate their 26th anniversary," RMHC Hawaii president Jerri Chong said. "We have a longstanding relationship with Saipan and continue to help families from the island who need access to medical care on Oahu. RMHC Hawaii's mission is to support seriously ill children and their families from not only Saipan, but Guam and other islands throughout the Pacific who need our services."

The Ronald McDonald House, which opened in 1987, is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide a home-away-from-home for seriously ill children and their families in Hawaii and the Pacific.

Over the years, the Ronald McDonald House has helped many families who have travelled from Guam and Saipan to Hawaii.

"For those that have children that are seriously ill, sometimes we have to seek medical care in Hawaii or in the U.S. mainland. Medical expenses can add up quickly and RMHC understands that," said Jose C. Ayuyu. "The RMHC organization keeps families together by providing a 'home away from home'; lodging for families that want to stay together while their child or children goes through medical treatment. This is so meaningful for us because at McDonald's, families are very important."

McDonald's Saipan will also be celebrating 26 years of business with exciting promotions from Friday, March 15, to Sunday, March 17.

McDonald's Guam & Saipan owner/operators Joe and Marcia Ayuyu flank officers of the Ronald McDonald House of Charities – Hawaii during the presentation of the donation on March 13 at the RMHC Judd Hill House in Honolulu, Hawaii.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Guam and Saipan, owned and operated by franchisees Joe and Marcia Ayuyu, is a food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. First opened in 1993, the organization includes eight McDonald's restaurants: two on Saipan and six in Guam. In 2016, the Ayuyus acquired all McDonald's restaurants in Guam and the company remains one of the largest employers in the Marianas Islands.

For more information about the Ronald McDonald House of Charities – Hawaii, visit https://www.ronaldhousehawaii.org/. ***(PR)***

Smoke testing of sewer system in CK

There will be smoke-testing on the sanitary sewer collection system in the Chalan Kanoa area beginning Thursday, March 21, through Friday March 22, from 9am to 11:30am. This will affect customers on Simion Olopai Av., Petro Yobbo Ln., Juan Tagabuel St. and Chief Ngushull.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said this is intended to locate leaks, breaks, illegal connections and other defects in CUC's sewer system.

The process involves blowing a non-toxic smoke into the manholes of the sewer system. If there are any defects in the area, the non-toxic smoke will be emitted through the defect and documented by CUC's sewer system team.

Smoke-testing procedures have been recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are an effective means of identifying problem areas in a sewer system.

CUC said in a statement that this test is part of continuing efforts "to provide a safe, economical, efficient and environmentally sound" sewer system.

"Eliminating system defects and illegal connections will help our community remain in compliance with the federal legislation regarding system maintenance and preventing sanitary sewer overflows," the statement adds.

The smoke is odorless, creates no fire hazard, and will not enter your home or business unless you have defective plumbing or dried up sink traps, or floor drains.

The smoke-testing should only affect your property for approximately 15 minutes.

Again, the smoke used for this test is manufactured strictly for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains and has no lasting effects on property, humans, animals, and plant.

Direct inhalation of the smoke may cause temporary minor respiratory irritation in some people, who may suffer from respiratory issues.

Prior to CUC's smoke-testing, pour two gallons of water in any seldom-used sinks and floor drains to prevent sewer gases, smoke and odors from entering the premises. If smoke does enter your home during testing, immediately remove yourself from the building, notify the CUC Team that are conducting the test or call CUC's Wastewater Operations Division at (670) 322-5032/5033.

If people in your building suffer from a heart condition, asthma, emphysema or some other respiratory condition and are planning to stay in the building during testing, or if a person is bedridden, has a chronic illness or has difficulty understanding any part of this public notice, notify CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032/3 to discuss your specific case.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

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4.5FT GEM BUFFET TABLE REG. $729 SALE $619
4.6FT KITCHEN CABINET REG. $399 SALE $339
2FT x 3FT STUDY TABLE REG. $159 SALE $135
COMPUTER TABLE REG. $129 SALE $109
CHILDREN'S STUDY REG. $259 SALE $220
GE 21 CU.FT. TOP FREEZER, REFRIGERATOR REG. $1,395 SALE $1,185
GE 18CU.FT. TOP FREEZER, REFRIGERATOR REG. $995 SALE $845
GE 16 CU.FT. TOP FREEZER, REFRIGERATOR REG. $899 SALE $764
GE 3.8CU. FT. TOP LOAD WASHER, WHITE REG. $699 SALE $594
AMANA 3.5 CU. FT. TOP LOAD WASHER REG. $899 SALE $764
MAYTAG 3.8 CU. FT. TOP LOAD WASHER REG. $999 SALE $849
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MAYTAG 2.9 CU. FT. COMMERCIAL DRYER REG. $1,395 SALE $1,185
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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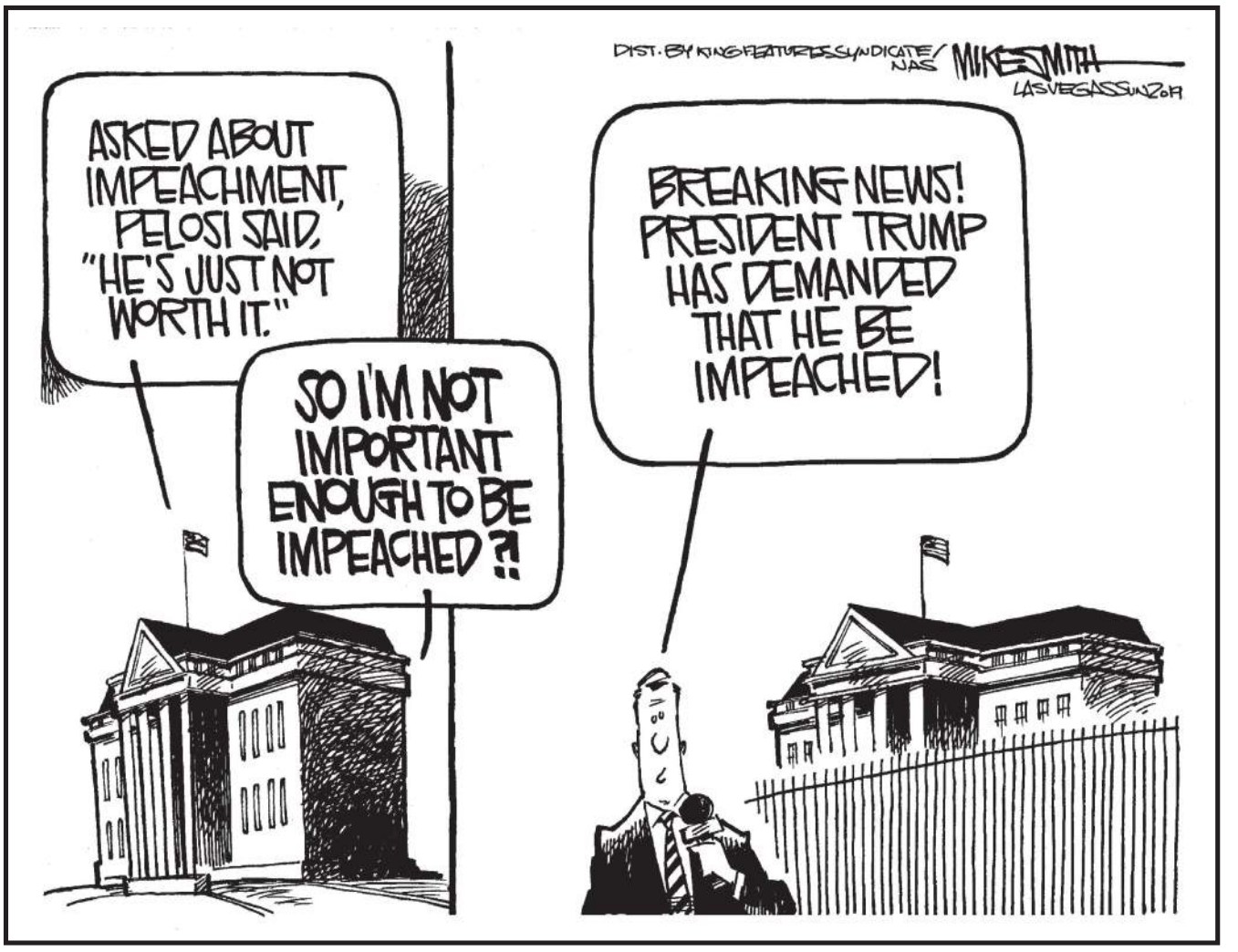
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ASKED ABOUT IMPEACHMENT, PELOSI SAID, "HE'S JUST NOT WORTH IT."
SO I'M NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE IMPEACHED?!
BREAKING NEWS! PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS DEMANDED THAT HE BE IMPEACHED!

EDITORIAL

The college admissions process was scandalous long before we learned about celebrity bribes

The indictment of dozens of wealthy parents, including several Hollywood actresses and business leaders, along with the top college athletic coaches they allegedly bribed, tells a shocking story of corruption and deception in college admissions. If the charges are true, these privileged but desperate parents sought to ensure spots at elite schools for their children by pretending they were top flight athletes, helping them cheat on standardized tests, and paying off college officials, among other things.

Well-known designer Mossimo Giannulli was among those charged, along with actress Felicity Huffman. Coaches allegedly pocketed millions of dollars in some cases for their role in helping get the children admitted.

But let's not kid ourselves. This is simply the extreme and egregious (and, prosecutors say, illegal) edge of a college admissions process that is already heavily weighted with subtle and unsubtle forms of favoritism for the rich, empowered and connected. The offspring of major donors generally receive favorable treatment at private colleges, as do the children of alumni, who tend to be a far more privileged group than other applicants.

Furthermore, the parents of affluent children commonly hire private college-admissions counselors who sometimes edit or rewrite—or even write—student essays for them and coach them intensively through the process. These techniques are not illegal. In 2016, journalist Jia Tolentino wrote in the publication *Jezebel* about her years supporting herself by charging wealthy families $150 an hour to write or rewrite their teens' essays.

The admissions advantage given to athletes also helps rich kids nab coveted spots at elite schools. According to a 2016 report by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, "The popular notion that recruited athletes tend to come from minority and indigent families turns out to be just false; at least among the highly selective institutions, the vast bulk of recruited athletes are in sports that are rarely available to low-income, particularly urban, applicants." It turns out that football and basketball players are far outnumbered by those engaged in sports that aren't found in most urban public high schools: fencing, crew, sailing, water polo, equestrian events and the like. Once admitted, the report said, these athletes underperform academically.

Wealthier parents have also gamed the part of the college

See COLLEGE on Next Page

RICO goes to Yale

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

We need a new spin-off of "The Sopranos."

Will someone please make this happen? It will feature spoiled daughter Meadow Soprano as part of a morally corrupt machine that encourages insipid rich kids—you know, the ones with access to everything and magical resources who can't seem to make anything of themselves—to cheat and lie their way into fancy colleges. "Consultants" help their parents funnel mountains of cash through a (tax deductible) fake charity so they can get the right "brand" of education.

Please, can it be called "RICO Goes To Yale"?

And can I make sure that you know I'm not making this up?

I've been a college professor for 9,764 years, which explains why I've been following this latest crime story involving college admissions across the country.

The FBI, with uncharacteristic flippancy, refers to this case as "Operation Varsity Blues." A racketeer named William "Rick" Singer was, according to various reports, the head of a fake-SAT-score, cheat-and-beat the system college-entrance hustle. We're talking big-time tax crime, complete with hoax charities, mail fraud, paying-people-to-take-the-test-for-other-people arrangements, photo-shopping heads of non-athletes onto stock photos of athletes and the pure ugliness of lying-even-when-you-don't-have-to.

From all accounts, Singer had no qualifications whatsoever, apart from being a con artist and a star-struck poser who bragged about his clients. On his website, Singer provides lists of people, he claims, who hired him. One presumes they are parents, because one presumes heads of major corporations or television personalities are not trying to get back into college.

As I'd never heard of Singer, I spent several hours reading his "writings"—a term I use lightly—outlining what he shilled as his inspirational theories of education, including this one: "As a parent, ask what would you be willing to do to give your child a shot at one of these top schools?"

Singer's not recommending helicopter parenting; he's recommending Gulfstream parenting. We're talking way in excess of millions of dollars in pay-offs just to get into a college. Who knows who they'll have to pay off to graduate?

Remember when devoted mom Carmela Soprano, who believes her eldest child Meadow is the smartest girl in the world ("Her paper on the melting icecap, it made me cry, it was so poignant") as well the most qualified candidate for admission to any college ("She would be a wonderful addition to the Georgetown campus") threatens an acquaintance who is initially unwilling to provide Meadow with a letter of recommendation? Remember when that seemed funny?

Jodi Rosenshein Atkin is a professional educational consultant. She represents the best of what those who work in the field have to offer. Her take on the scandal: "I'm bound by ethical guidelines of national professional organizations. I won't create fictional resumes, take bribes or guarantee admission to specific schools in order to elicit envy and awe at cocktail parties. My focus is to identify places where students can thrive academically and socially."

I also asked Hara Marano, author of "A Nation of Wimps: The High Cost of Invasive Parenting," to offer her perspective: "Bypassing even the pretense of the work ethic and ignoring requirements entirely," Singer's clients encouraged their kids to cheat. They didn't push their children but instead paid for them to have the pathway to opportunities paved for them.

Marano, also editor-at-large of Psychology Today, complicates her position by reminding us that "What all parents share is anxiety about the future of their kids in a land where opportunity appears to be dwindling."

The diminishing middle class is one reason that so-called elite schools keep tightening their grip on the imaginative power of status-hungry parents and children.

Longtime former head coach of Yale's women's soccer, Rudolph Meredith, is charged with accepting a $400,000 bribe to say he'd given a place on the team to a student who had never played soccer competitively so that she'd be cataloged by Yale as a "recruited athlete," thereby allotting her an edge over other more legitimately qualified candidates. Officials said the student's parents then paid an additional $1.2 million to Singer in bribes after the fact.

This is when you start to realize that The Sopranos were amateurs.

The deck was always stacked, we know that, but parents have gone way beyond contributing to an arts center, or even building a dormitory. Now, they're constructing entirely new children, complete with athletes' bodies and scholars' brains.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wind, sun, and a doomed idea

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Since you're reading the newspaper for the latest scoop on Pacific events, I'll only roll back about 2,600 years and consider some wisdom from ancient Greece. OK, so I'm missing your expectations a bit, but let's not dwell on that.

So here we go: A fable from Aesop mentions that the wind and the sun were arguing over which of them was more powerful. They settled their attention on a man who was wearing a coat. They agreed to a contest to see which one of them could get the man to shed it. The wind went first, trying to blow the coat off the guy. The harder it blew, however, the tighter the man clung to the coat. The sun went next. It turned up its heat, and the man willfully shed the coat because it was so hot. The wisdom is that gentleness can produce better results than force.

These old stories are meant to be told for effect. The gist is more important than the details, so I have offered the spirit of the fable, not the letter of the fable, since I haven't seen the letter of it in a long time.

At the risk of overstating the obvious, I'll state it anyway. The sun is able to think one step ahead, and align its goals with the natural order by anticipating what the man will willingly do when he is confronted with a new circumstance. The sun knows that it can't directly control the man's behavior, but the sun can control the new circumstance.

As obvious as that is, though, a surprisingly large number of schemes fail to take into account even basic first-order effects such as this simple fable illustrates. The impulse to coerce is often stronger than the desire to cooperate. And then when things don't go as planned, "unexpected consequences" are blamed for basic, and largely predictable, human reactions. You could fill an entire newspaper with contemporary examples, but, come to think of it, that's what much of the news is made of, even if it's not seen in that light. Saipan is not an exception.

In my corporate days I tried to come up with a way to measure the difference between taking the coercive and the cooperative approach. I couldn't take a perfectly clean cut at it, but I resolved to do the best I could with the data and circumstances that I had at hand.

Our company extended a lot of credit to household customers, most of whom were not prime risks. We had a large pool of past-due accounts. The administrative department sent out the standard array of dunning letters. As is standard practice, the aggressiveness of the letters notched up as the associated account became more and more overdue.

I aimed my efforts at the accounts that were not very far past due. Their usual dunning letters, again in accordance with standard practice, were of the boringly-worded "friendly reminder" variety.

I expanded that standard mail-out to include a copy of the company newsletter, a few coupons, and a brief note that said I knew that many people were having a hard time paying their bills, but (as they could see in the newsletter) the company was doing great things and we were always happy to see our customers. My goal was to get these people back into our retail locations so things would be reset to a human-to-human basis, and reestablish a feeling of business as usual, as opposed to framing our interaction strictly on a creditor-to-deadbeat basis. No suasion was to be applied at the retail locations (though no new credit was to be extended, either). If the fresh human interaction inspired people to pay their bills, great. If not, well, that's life.

One-shot correspondence is, from my experience, seldom effective. I therefore settled on a three-letter series as my test material.

Unfortunately, the computer system that carried our account data was not something I could get to mesh with my desktop computer. I had a lot of manual data entry to perform. While at first I wanted to test my idea with half the target accounts, using the other half as a status-quo control, I wound up selecting a far smaller sample for my experiment so I could minimize the data entry burden.

The day finally came where I had all this stuff dialed-in and I had the materials drafted. I sought a sign-off from senior management to take the experiment live. Even if this induced a 10 percent reduction in the accounts that were 30- to 90-days past due it would have been a success. Of course, you could never prove that any such result was a function of my idea and not of mere randomness, but those fog banks just go with the territory.

There is, however, no need to worry about results in this case. That's because there were no results. My idea got shot down. I scrapped the project and forgot all about it.

You can't win them all. I think I'll buy a book of Aesop's fables. After all, some wisdom is easier read than measured.

COLLEGE

From Page 14

application in which students show that they have engaged in meaningful community service, often by sending their children on high-priced trips to villages in developing countries, where they help build playgrounds or coach kids' soccer in between their recreational tourist activities.

Any students currently in college as a result of outright bribery should have their admission revoked. Whether or not they consciously participated, their presence at college is based on fraud—and the seats they're filling could be taken by other students with legitimate credentials.

But colleges cannot claim to be the hapless victims of parental manipulation of the admissions process. Despite their supposed belief in a system of merit-based admissions, the reality is that they have created and tolerated a lopsided system that, despite some efforts to the contrary, continues to benefit the rich over potentially more deserving students with lesser means.

Colleges could start fixing this by eliminating the admissions preference for children of alumni, by demanding strong academic performance from all applicants including athletes and by forbidding students to use paid professional help to complete their applications. Students in better-funded schools would still have advantages, but not by as much as they do when they hire private outside counselors. Applicants should have to sign a statement that their essays represent solely their work, and that they understand their admission will be revoked if it's found otherwise. Applicants would still lie here and there, and it is not clear what meaningful enforcement there could be. But at least students—and their desperate parents—might hesitate if they knew they'd be committing fraud.

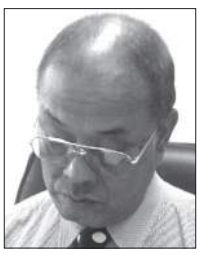
At the very least, it would send a message that colleges are serious about leveling the slanted playing field of admissions.

(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

Fiduciary duty, anybody?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



When legislators employ rabid aspiration to pocket the $5,000 allowance that isn't part of their salary this would have to be the new scale of greed on Da Hills of Saipan.

Their decision takes care of their suspect largess first and foremost as to openly ignore the fate of 15-,000 employees struggling in abject poverty income level. Evidently, PSS has yet to be given its $4 million and MVA some $2.5 million.

Shouldn't the familial hardship of these employees be the uppermost issue under their fiduciary duty? Isn't it that they are they are the ones who deserve at least a portion of your new $5,000 additional income? Why did you skip their wellbeing? Isn't your decision an obvious negligence and misrepresentation of their interests?

Your action is cavalierly, no matter how you dice, splice, or slice it. Eh, how could you openly ignore the 15,000 employees stuck in abject poverty that need additional help meeting basic family needs?

I understand that Saipan legislators have claimed the same as though part of their income. Sens. Justo Quitugua, Vinnie Sablan, and Sixto Igisomar have reportedly drawn such allowance. If none of you is an off-island senator, please account for every penny you've withdrawn ($15,000 apiece thus far).

The sum of $5,000 was never intended as part of your income. In fact, it is over and above your regular salaries. We the taxpayers deserve an explanation and, most importantly, return of our hard-earned income tax forthwith!

Isn't there a cumulative deficit now of $83 million for the first part of the year?

OPA must probe: Rota awaits the arrival of a secondhand power generator to keep the villages lit. This isn't news! That it would cost $690,000 saddled against all ratepayers is definitely news! Why not buy a new one?

An informed source said the MV *Luta* would be used to transport the generator to Rota. It would also require use of a crane to offload it. The freight cost is around $160,000 while use of crane about $120,000. Who are the owners of boat and crane? What a sweetheart deal at the expense of ratepayers!

The public auditor must probe who are the owners. And please, Mr. OPA, share whatever information you uncover on this deal.

Revenue decrease: Definitely, we have issues that require serious attention like poverty income of nearly 15,000 employees. Sober review is in order with commitment to reversing a deepening mess. It focuses and revolves around the quality of life for families all over the NMI.

Improvement could only come via a healthy economy. That this many folks are under poverty income level is a tale of economic conditions here being very bad!

Even the governor made downwards adjustment to this year's budget package by as much as $12-million-plus due to a 4.7 percent revenue shortfall. It's a responsible decision, exercising care where resources begin heading south.

The negative impact of the storms and exit of Nippon investments has started showing their ugly and troubling economic effects here. Brace for far less in the near and long-term.

Moreover, it is also rumored that patients in Guam, Hawaii and the Philippines haven't been given their allowance over the last four months. It presents a tough situation for them, dealing with basic needs while attending to treatment for serious illnesses. Don't blame anyone for it is the net effect of a steady decrease in revenue generation.

Has the elected elite met to review heavy reduction in revenue since recent past? Hope you've done your homework in that the issue isn't going to improve for at least a little while more. Must critically guard revenues steadily heading south!

Small: Indeed, ours is a small tourism industry. We once had apparel manufacturing that has since been shuttered. Nothing has moved since. We're still here nursing what's left. Would private industry expansion ever take off or is everybody guarding everybody else settling for the comforts of *mañana*?

The apparent economic lull may have been triggered by serious reverse in opportunities for growth and development when major Nippon investors exited the NMI in recent past. Is there a way out of this woefully troubling reduction of major investments?

It's a tough socio-economic issue that places the issue of leadership right front and center. The lights are on; is anybody home?

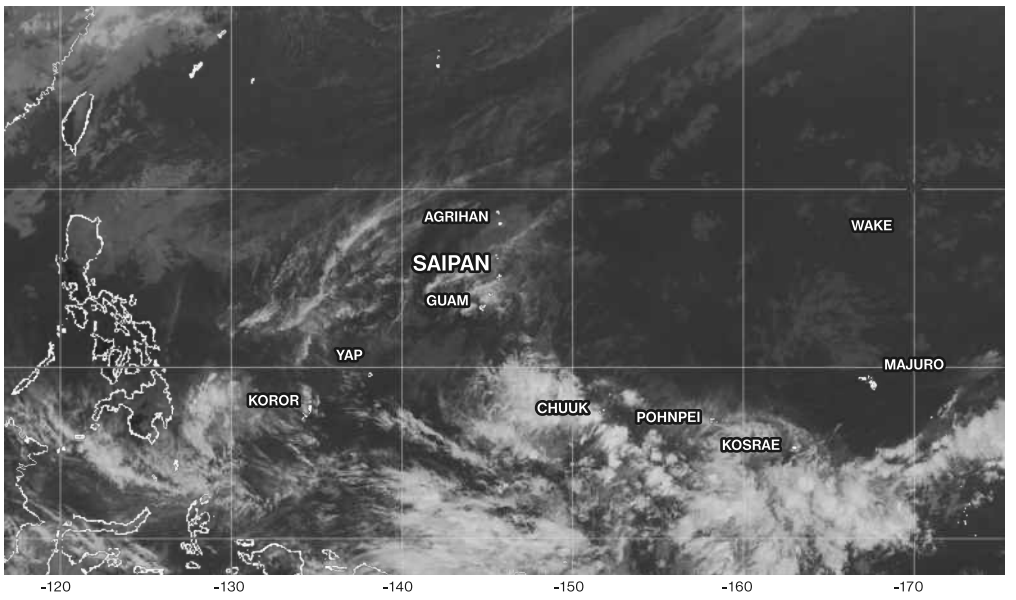
If I may remind you: there are nearly 15,000 employees stuck under poverty income level. Don't they deserve immediate attention too?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:27 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The one-two punch of the trough just east of the Marianas, and the trough and circulation in Chuuk State will keep isolated showers in the local forecast the next couple of days. Substantial rains are not expected as the system in Chuuk State remains very disorganized and will stay well south of the Marianas. The more noticeable effect of the disturbance to the south will be increased trade winds on Friday. Drier weather returns for the weekend, but another Micronesian disturbance is expected to bring increased cloudiness and isolated showers back into the area early next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 76°
Palau	Showers	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	72° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	64° / 32°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 64°
Honolulu	Sunny	82° / 66°
London	Windy	57° / 52°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	73° / 50°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 57°
Miami	Showers	80° / 73°
New York	Showers	64° / 45°
Osaka	Showers	52° / 41°
Paris	Showers	57° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 45°
Salem	Thunderstorm	66° / 41°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 28°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 37°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	69° / 46°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrime stoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.56
7:57 AM	LOW TIDE	1.22
1:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
8:53 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.05

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:55 AM	12:35 PM
Saturday	-	1:54 AM	1:33 PM
Sunday	-	2:52 AM	2:35 PM
Monday	-	3:50 AM	3:38 PM
Tuesday	-	4:44 AM	4:41 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

The key to academic success—for student and institution

By WALTER V. WENDLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His columns are available at http://walterwendler.com/.

U.S. News & World Report does not rank the quality of academic advising. It is unlikely that any ranking system does. Outcomes easily measured are most frequently used in rankings. Unfortunately, the quality of advising is neither accounted for or easily measured.

Teaching is ultimately the purpose of the university, and advising may be the highest form of teaching. It allows a faculty member and student to work through challenges in making career decisions guided by their talents and abilities in a one-on-one setting. The trend over the past four decades has been to assign advising to specialized staff who are not faculty members. In many cases this works out to the student's advantage. Faculty members are not always aware of the latest curricular changes, policies, prerequisite requirements and other detailed requirements for advising across the programs on campus. Advising professionals are frequently better suited to these tasks. However, energetic faculty know career fields through direct experience and can assist students in sorting out priorities and aspirations. Professional advisers may not have that capacity. Teams work.

Students who are effectively advised in an environment of shared responsibility are more likely to graduate in a timely fashion that conserves both individual and institutional resources. When these kinds of efficiencies occur, students are more successful; through that success, universities are deemed to be more effective. Sue Ohrablo, an adjunct professor at Valencia College, says that student-focused, proactive advising supports the effectiveness of the university in general. Student feedback, student engagement and clarity are critical. In other words, good advising makes an impact, not just an impression.

As enrollment declines at many universities, the attention of smaller regional public institutions and private liberal arts institutions to the welfare of individual students increases in importance and complexity. Unfortunately, advising impact is often measured by the number of students seen by an adviser. Additionally, little emphasis is placed on the value of faculty members formally talking with students about life aspirations, career goals and long-term interests.

Quality advising is not just important on campuses challenged by enrollment declines. The University of California Davis is a well-regarded land-grant university that produces recognized academic results and holds high advising excellence. Carolyn Thomas, the Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education, observes, "As higher education across the globe acclimates to the disequilibrium caused by change, the stature and legitimacy of academic advising will rise, which will further inspire and require practitioner engagement on campus." Clinical professors, those who practice in their chosen profession and also teach, bring a wealth of applied experience to students seeking career counsel and advice.

This does not diminish the importance of excellence in academic advising in the details of completing a college degree. Do I need math class A before I take math class B? This is a critical question. Prerequisites in any number of disciplines demand a building up of knowledge and insight that follows from carefully-structured sequences.

Advising should be intentional and carefully considered by

Continued on Page 20

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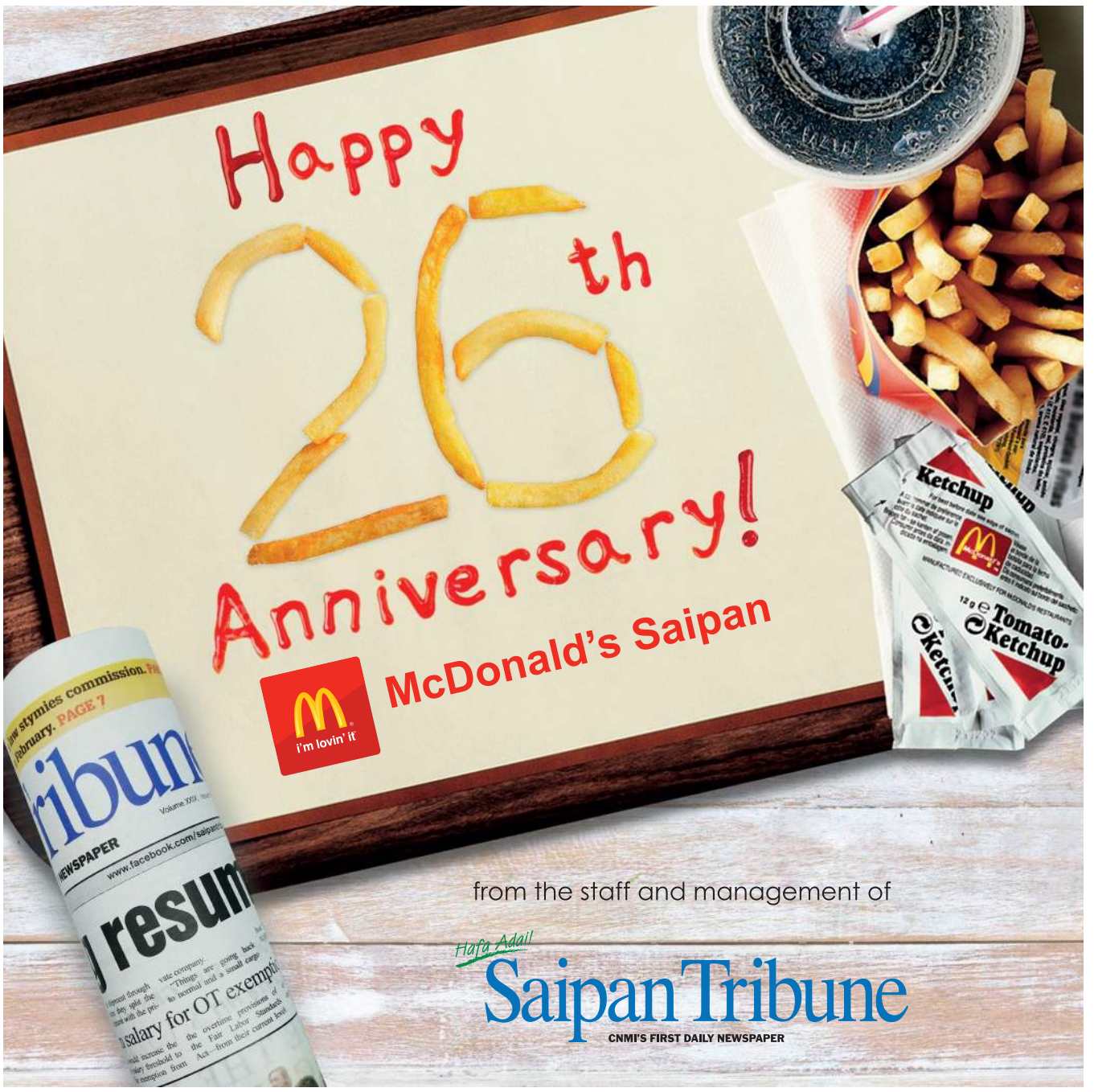

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Democratic Party: The Trailblazer

This month, we are celebrating Women's Month and the important contributions women have made in different areas within our community. I would like to emphasize the powerful role women have played in politics not only throughout the world but also within the Democratic Party here in the CNMI.

Prior to the gubernatorial election of 1976, the Democratic Party was the dominant political organization in the Marianas. The Ladies Association was the core organizational arm of the party, and the driving force behind its successes. No one could become a political candidate for the party without the approval and endorsement of the Ladies Association. Every fundamental social, political and economic issue that the party attempted to promote had to secure the support of the Ladies Association, because without their support, that issue would go nowhere.

The Ladies Association was the political foundation of the Democratic Party. This group of powerful women in the Democratic Party organization was responsible for the successful political careers of many men who were and are prominent figures in the history of the CNMI.

In a dramatic demonstration of their power, the Ladies Association of the Democratic Party asserted their power and influence in 1979 during the first Commonwealth Legislature by going against a casino bill that was sponsored by one of their members. Their protest against this prompted the Catholic Church to also weigh in on the issue.

The relentless and collective resistance by these determined wives and mothers alerted the interest of federal enforcement officials that an investigation was subsequently undertaken and an individual was later indicted.

One of the most amazing things about the Ladies Association was that these women were mothers and grandmothers, many of whom had less than a high school education, but were resolute in their determination to play a role in making the Commonwealth a better place for their children and a bright future for all of our people.

As a matter of fact, it was because of the tenacity of the Ladies Association that the Commonwealth Covenant passed with a 78.9 percent affirmative vote. I can only imagine what it would be like if we still had the powerful influence of the Ladies Association behind the Democratic Party now.

As we celebrate Women's Month, I would like to appeal to the children and grandchildren of all the mothers who were in this association and other serious-minded young adults in our community

Continued on Next Page

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to consider being part of this amazing political organization rich in history and was literally instrumental in changing the course of the Marianna Islands District/CNMI political history. Among its many achievements are:

1. Playing an instrumental part in the establishment of the Popular Party, the forerunner of today's Democratic Party.
2. Establishng the Saipan House of Council.
3. Seeking reintegration with the territory of Guam.
4. Helping to secure the payment of $10 million in war reparations, as compensation for the atrocities of World War II.
5. Winning the first Popular Party mayoral election.
6. Petitioning the United Nations Trusteeship Council to grant our right to political self-determination.
7. Passing the charter establishing the Mariana Islands District Legislature.
8. Respectfully and amicably urging that the Northern Marianas cease our association with the rest of the trust territory through the Congress of Micronesia.
9. Passing the law establishing the Marianas Political Status Commission.
10. Playing an essential part in the negotiation for self-government through the Covenant.
11. Lobbying the U.S. Congress for passage of the Covenant through the leadership of Democratic Party Speaker of the House Thomas Phillip "Tip" O'Neill Jr.
12. Leading the campaign for the ratification of the Covenant through a plebiscite where 78.9 percent of our people voted affirmatively.
13. Through our first Constitutional Convention, helping to establish the constitutional structures of the CNMI government.
14. Implementing the CNMI-only 80/20 food stamp expenditure allocation requirement.

As women begin to take active roles in the private sector and government, younger millennial voters are joining the Democratic Party throughout the nation for the values the party stands for. The Democratic Party welcomes individual women who have provocative ideas and need a platform to advance them. This is an exciting time for women, and an exciting time to be a Democrat.

Here is an interesting quote about women from one of the most powerful women in in politics: "In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman." So said Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister of the United Kingdom.

Daniel O. Quitugua
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

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students and families as they select a place to study. In addition, the rising tide of transfer and nontraditional students—working parents, students who through dual enrollment graduate high school with an associate degree, students who have stopped out of university study and may return after 10, 15 or 20 years—all require special attention from passionate advisers. Advising becomes even more important as the nature, composition, demographics and aspirations of students become more complex and diverse rather than the monolithic character of students just a few generations ago. And, universities are slow to change.

Advisers who become scholars identify and create pathways leading and creating new insights about effectiveness in serving students. Advisers who are scholars frequently understand the difficulty of scheduling classes for a student when much of the teaching occurs between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Class conflicts become nearly unavoidable as was discovered at Michigan State University. Because advisers use technology that becomes the backbone of university management, they should be leaders in promoting technology that facilitates student learning across the broad spectrum of student needs, as "typical" students are increasingly scarce. Lastly, advisers are skilled in helping create connections and relationships across the campus. At Purdue, advisers helped lead the retooling of the change-of-major process.

Advisers play a key role in the educational process, from both an individual and institutional perspective. My advice for students and all those committed to student success? Talk to advisers and, more importantly, listen to them whether they are professional advisers or faculty. They hold the key to academic success for both student and institution.

NMBAC reps at SHRM meeting

Representatives of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., having just returned from a door-knocking visit in Washington, D.C., will be the featured speakers at the monthly membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

The NMBAC will provide information on efforts to update the expired CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey and how this will affect the submissions of fiscal year 2020 CW petitions.

NMBAC will also discuss other provisions and requirements of the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 or U.S. Public Law 115-218, such as the 30-day "touch back" requirement.

This meeting is open to the public and will provide valuable information for employers, managers, and HR professionals and staff.

The presentation includes the PIC Magellan Restaurant lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management and has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization.

For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Weightlifting competition on Saipan

CNMI Weightlifting will hold a weightlifting competition on Saipan on May 18, 2019, at a time and place to be announced later. ***(PR)***

Volunteers sought for CK, Susupe cleanup

Volunteers are invited to join a community cleanup called "Beautify Our Villages" in Chalan Kanoa and Susupe this Saturday, March 16, 8am to 11am. Meet at Sugar Dock Beach. Trash bags, gloves, hand sanitizer, water, and refreshments will be provided. For more information contact the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965 or the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829. ***(PR)***

Business

Boeing's newest plane becomes its biggest headache

WASHINGTON (AP)— Boeing's newest version of its best-selling airliner ever was supposed to boost its fortunes for years to come.

Instead it has turned into the company's biggest headache, with more than 40 countries — including the U.S., which had been one of the last holdouts — grounding the 737 Max 8 after a second fatal crash proved one too many.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration issued an emergency order keeping the planes on the tarmac after refusing to do so in the days immediately following the crash of a Max 8 operated by Ethiopian Airlines that left 157 people dead.

The agency said what made the difference was new, enhanced satellite tracking data and physical evidence on the ground that linked the Ethiopian jet's movements to those of an Indonesian Lion Air flight that plunged into the Java Sea in October and killed 189 people.

"That evidence aligns the Ethiopian flight closer to Lion Air, what we know happened to Lion Air," said Daniel Elwell, acting FAA administrator.

Officials at Lion Air have said sensors on their plane produced erroneous information on its last four flights, triggering an automatic nose-down command that the pilots were unable to overcome on its final voyage.

Since debuting in 2017, Boeing has delivered more than 350 of the Max in several versions that vary by size. Dozens of airlines around the world have embraced the plane for its fuel efficiency and utility for short and medium-haul flights.

The groundings will have a far-reaching financial impact on Boeing, at least in the short term, said John Cox, a veteran pilot and CEO of Safety Operating Systems.

In addition to the planes that have been grounded, there are more than 4,600 Boeing 737 Max 8 planes on backlog that are not yet delivered to airlines.

"There are delivery dates that aren't being met, there's usage of the aircraft that's not being met, and all the supply chain things that Boeing so carefully crafted," Cox said. "If they can't deliver the airplanes, where do they put the extra engines and the extra fuselage and the extra electrical components?"

Impacted airlines also may come knocking on Boeing's door claiming damages. Norwegian Airlines said it would pursue reimbursement from Boeing for lost business and if other carriers follow suit, that could be costly. Whether airlines would be successful with such claims depends on the details of the contracts those carriers have with Boeing, said Dan Rose, partner at Kreindler & Kreindler, an aviation law firm.

"One way or another, whether there's a contractual provision that covers it or not, there are almost certainly going to be claims made against them," Rose said.

Trump raises possibility of walking away from China deal

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump on Wednesday dangled the prospect of walking away from a new trade deal with China if it's not to his liking, just as he cut short his summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un when the two sides failed to reach an agreement.

Trump spoke on the state of negotiations with China shortly before meeting with Republican senators on trade issues. He spoke optimistically of the U.S. and China being able to reach an agreement, declaring that "China has not been doing well. We've been doing unbelievably well."

But Trump also seemed to hark back to last month's summit when asked whether he preferred that the two parties work out a trade deal before he meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping or whether he'd prefer to work out the final details with Xi. Trump said he preferred the latter option.

He cautioned that "President Xi saw that I'm somebody who believes in walking when a deal is not done."

Last month, Trump had said "sometimes you have to walk" in explaining why his summit with Kim was abruptly cut short without a commitment from North Korea to eliminate its nuclear arsenal.

"We're making great deals, or we're not going to make them at all. We're going to go (with) tariffs," Trump said Wednesday.

So far, the U.S. has imposed tariffs on $250 billion of Chinese imports. China retaliated by slapping duties on about $110 billion of U.S. goods. Many of the tariffs imposed by China target U.S. farm products such as soybeans and pork, contributing to a projected 12 percent drop in net farm income last year.

Farmers are anxious for the president to work out an agreement with China as well as for Congress to ratify a new trade agreement with Canada and Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"It's an exciting time in terms of trade," Trump said.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said after the White House meeting with Trump that he urged the president and lawmakers "to solve this tariff issue on steel and aluminum."

Trump imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum in the name of national security, but those tariffs have led to a series of retaliatory tariffs from Canada and Mexico targeting farm country. Grassley said no agreements or resolution."

conclusions were reached in the meeting.

While Trump portrayed China as anxious for a trade deal, his former economic adviser, Gary Cohn, said he believes it's the U.S. that is "desperate" for an agreement.

"The president needs a win," Cohn said in a Freakonomics Radio podcast that aired Wednesday night. "The only big open issue right now that he could claim as a big win that he'd hope would have a big impact on the stock market would be a Chinese

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-013

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-013, Agingan Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-006

KAGMAN WATERLINE AND BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, on the installation of a new booster station to replace the existing Kumoi pump station. The work also includes and connection of a new 8-inch PVC transmission line and a new 6-inch PVC distribution line complete with all necessary valves, fittings, and appurtenances. It will also involve the rehabilitation of the existing deep well KG-131 and the reconnection of all customers onto new or existing waterlines within the project area. The Contractor shall complete the work in accordance with the plans, specifications and terms of the contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the United States Office of Insular Affairs (US OIA) thru the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island (CNMI) Capital Improvement Project Office (CIP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA and the CNMI CIP Office.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-006- Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer at email travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

Judges skeptical of challenge to California immigration law

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A U.S. appeals court appeared inclined Wednesday to reject a request by the Trump administration to block a California law limiting police cooperation with immigration officials.

But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals raised concerns about another state law extending protections to people in the country illegally.

The Trump administration has sued California over three such laws, saying they obstruct federal immigration efforts and urging the 9th Circuit to block them.

Judge Milan Smith said at a hearing that U.S. officials might find it frustrating that local authorities can't help them take custody of people in the country illegally.

But "because it's an obstacle doesn't mean it's illegal, right?" he asked an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice.

The law prevents law enforcement agencies in the state from providing release dates and personal information of jail inmates—information administration officials say they need to safely remove dangerous people who are in the country illegally.

Judge Andrew Hurwitz said it doesn't allow local officials to interfere with federal efforts to take immigrants into custody, it just forbids them from "affirmatively helping."

"They're not required to be helpful, are they?" he asked.

Smith and Hurwitz, however, expressed concerns about another state law requiring inspections of facilities where immigrants are detained. The panel did not immediately issue a ruling.

The inspection law also calls on the state attorney general to review the legal rights immigrants are afforded and how they are being apprehended. Hurwitz said he had trouble understanding how the conditions under which immigrants were apprehended were any of California's business. He also raised concerns that the authority to evaluate the due process immigrants receive may be too broad.

Smith questioned whether the state could require more of federal detention facilities than it does of state facilities.

More than 50 immigrant advocates protested outside the federal courthouse before the hearing, some holding signs saying "ICE out of California," referring to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Trump administration's 2018 lawsuit was part of its broader efforts to crack down on so-called sanctuary jurisdictions that it says allow criminals to stay on the streets. It is among numerous legal fights between the White House and Democrat-dominated California. California has sued the Trump administration dozens of times, mostly over immigration, the environment and health.

Report: Power lines sparked massive Southern California fire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of the largest fires in California history was sparked by Southern California Edison power lines that came into contact during high winds, investigators said Wednesday.

The resulting arc ignited dry brush on Dec. 4, 2017, starting the blaze in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties that resulted in two deaths and blackened more than 440 square miles (1,139 square kilometers), according to the investigation headed by the Ventura County Fire Department.

The arc "deposited hot, burning or molten material onto the ground, in a receptive fuel bed, causing the fire," said a statement accompanying the investigative report.

Investigators said the Thomas fire first began as two separate blazes started about 15 minutes apart that joined together. They determined Southern California Edison was responsible for both ignitions.

SCE acknowledged its equipment likely sparked one of the two fires but said evidence suggested it wasn't responsible for the other.

"The report does not suggest this evidence was considered," Edison said in a statement Wednesday. "SCE also is not aware of any basis for criminal liability."

The fire destroyed more than 1,000 structures before it was contained 40 days after it began near the city of Santa Paula. A firefighter and a civilian were killed.

A month after the blaze started, a downpour on the burn scar unleashed a massive debris flow that killed 21 people and destroyed or damaged hundreds of homes in the seaside community of Montecito. Two people have not been found.

The investigation was conducted by fire officials in both counties along with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Victims said in lawsuits that losses from the blaze and flooding were due to negligence by SCE, which has said it will work with insurance companies to handle the claims. The utility is protected from going bankrupt over the disasters, thanks to a law signed last year that passes excess liability costs on to utility customers.

NY attorney says feds probing his pardon talks with Cohen

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors have requested copies of communications Michael Cohen had with a New York attorney who broached the possibility of a pardon from President Donald Trump, the attorney said Wednesday.

The attorney, Robert J. Costello, released a statement disputing Cohen's claim that Trump "dangled" a presidential pardon in front of Cohen before he began cooperating with federal prosecutors and special counsel Robert Mueller.

"We have documents to back our position up, and are preparing to provide these to the U.S. Attorney's office, who has asked for them," Costello said in the statement. The statement referred to Cohen's account of the pardon discussions as "utter nonsense."

Federal prosecutors requested emails and documents from Costello last week amid an investigation into "possible violations of federal criminal law," The New York Times reported Wednesday, citing a copy of the request.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan declined to comment.

Attorneys for Trump and Cohen have offered dueling versions of events about the pardon talks and whether Cohen misled a congressional committee during testimony last month. Trump last week called Cohen, his former personal attorney, a liar and alleged in a tweet that Cohen "directly asked" for a pardon.

Costello, in an interview with CNN Wednesday, said it was Cohen who raised the specter of a pardon, and said he brought the matter up with Trump's legal team even though he thought it was premature at the time. Costello was not retained by Cohen but had several conversations with him after the FBI raided Cohen's home and office last April.

Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani confirmed that Costello, a former federal prosecutor, reached out to him after the raid.

"My answer was the president is not going to consider or give any pardons now," Giuliani told The Associated Press. "As I have said in the past, the president has the right to, and that doesn't mean he won't consider it when the investigation is over."

Costello did not respond to repeated messages from The Associated Press.

Lanny Davis, an attorney for Cohen, declined to comment.

Costello's remarks came a day after Cohen's lawyers sent a letter to the House Oversight Committee seeking to clarify Cohen's testimony last month that he never sought a pardon from the president.

Cohen declared under oath Feb. 27, "I have never asked for, nor would I accept, a pardon from President Trump."

But his attorney Michael Monico told the committee in a letter Tuesday that Cohen asked his lawyer to explore the possibility of a pardon before Cohen left a joint-defense agreement and turned against Trump last June.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-DOF-060

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 18, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS ON **MARCH 08, 2019**.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY VIA FACSIMILE TO **(670) 664-1515** OR VIA EMAIL TO procurement@cnmidof.net **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 05, 2019**. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE. ALL QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
as of March 15, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	02/26/2019 SLRm-2019-X-015	In-water Maintenance	Lower Base, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 03/01/2019*
2. Palette Travel	02/28/2019 SLR-2019-X-017	Free Diving & Snorkeling	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
3. Johnston Applied Marine Sciences	02/27/2019 SLRm-2019-X-018	Coral Nursery	Managaha Marine Conservation Area	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
4. Globe Corporation	03/11/2019 SLR-2019-X-019	Free Diving	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Asia

US warns of sophisticated cyberattacks from Russia, China

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cyberattacks from Russia, China, North Korea and Iran are increasingly sophisticated and, until recently, were done with little concern for the consequences, the top Pentagon cyber leaders told a congressional committee on Wednesday.

Army Gen. Paul Nakasone, head of U.S. Cyber Command, laid out the escalating threats, following a Navy review released this week that described significant breaches of naval systems and concluded that the service is losing the cyber war.

Speaking during a subcommittee hearing, Nakasone said the U.S. is now prepared to use cyber operations more aggressively to strike back, as the nation faces growing cyberattacks and threats of interference in the 2020 presidential elections.

He said the military learned a lot working with other government agencies to thwart Russian interference in the 2018 midterm elections, and the focus now has turned to the next election cycle.

The Navy report underscored long-known cyber threats from Russia and China that have plagued the U.S. government and its contractors for more than a decade. It said there were "several significant" breaches of classified Navy systems and that "massive amounts" of national security data have been stolen. The report laid out a number of recommendations to reduce cyber vulnerabilities across the Navy and make cybersecurity a higher priority.

AP

In this Jan. 29, 2019, file photo, National Security Agency director and head of U.S. Cyber Command Gen. Paul Nakasone testifies before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Data has been stolen from key defense contractors and their suppliers, the report said, adding that "critical supply chains have been compromised in ways and to an extent yet to be fully understood." The report, ordered by Navy Secretary Richard Spencer, concluded that while the Navy is prepared to win at conventional warfare, that's not the case for the current cyber war.

The U.S. government has complained for years about data breaches by China to steal high-tech information and other trade secrets. The federal government, for example, charged two alleged Chinese hackers in December with breaching computer networks as far back as 2006 and suggested they could be linked to the theft of personal information from more than 100,000 Navy personnel.

China has denied the widespread hacking accusations, but the issue is one of several that tied up ongoing negotiations on a U.S.-China trade agreement.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian woman detonates bomb, killing herself and child

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The wife of an Islamic militant arrested for plotting attacks in the Indonesian capital detonated a bomb during a siege of their home in North Sumatra, killing herself and her two-year-old child, the national police said Wednesday. The woman is believed to have blown herself up hours after throwing a homemade bomb that injured an officer as police tried to search the house in Sibologa district on Tuesday, Dedi Prasetyo, the national police spokesman, told The Associated Press. Police officers at the location said there were two explosions and smoke at the house about 1:30 a.m., Prasetyo said. The woman had earlier refused calls from her husband, police and local leaders to surrender. Prasetyo said the woman's husband, known as Husein, was arrested on Tuesday after the interrogation of another suspected militant, Rinto Sugiharto, who was apprehended in Lampung on Saturday, uncovered plans for attacks on police in Jakarta and Lampung.

US Navy flagship visits Manila after sailing in disputed sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A U.S. Navy flagship has sailed through the South China Sea with its commander renewing an American vow to "sail, fly and operate wherever the law allows us to" amid China's objection to U.S. military presence in the disputed sea. Capt. Eric Anduze, commander of the USS *Blue Ridge*, told reporters on board the U.S. 7th Fleet's command and control ship, which anchored at Manila Bay Wednesday, that the visit was the latest affirmation of the strong U.S.-Philippine alliance. "We have a long history ... we're here to let you know that that partnership is stronger than ever," Anduze said. Asked if his contingent has encountered the Chinese navy in the region, Anduze said without elaborating that it has, adding that "all of our interactions were safe and professional." "We sail, fly and operate wherever the law allows us to," he said.

Pakistan air force says fighter jet test-fired smart missile

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's air force says one of its fighter jets successfully test-fired a locally developed missile, described as a "smart weapon." The announcement follows recent skirmishes with rival India over disputed Kashmir during which Pakistan said it shot down two Indian planes and captured a pilot, who was later returned to India. An air force statement says a JF-17 multi-role fighter aircraft on Tuesday fired the new missile, which has "day-and-night capability to engage a variety of targets with pinpoint accuracy." A "smart" weapon is typically military language for a guided missile. Air Force chief Mujahid Anwar was quoted as saying that "Pakistan is a peace-loving nation but if subjected to aggression by adversary, we will respond with full force." There was no further information on the type of missile fired.

Malaysia won't drop case against Vietnamese in Kim killing

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's attorney general ordered the murder case to proceed against a Vietnamese woman accused in the killing of the North Korean leader's estranged half brother, prosecutors said in court Thursday. Prosecutor Iskandar Ahmad gave no explanation for the refusal to drop the murder charge against Doan Thi Huong, who is the only suspect in custody after the stunning decision to drop the case Monday against Indonesian Siti Aisyah. Huong's lawyer Hisyam Teh Poh Teik told the court they were disappointed with the attorney general's decision and said prosecutors were being unfair to Huong. "It does not bring confidence to our criminal justice system. Very obviously, there is discrimination. The AG favored one party to the other," Teh said. He also sought a deferment of the trial, saying Huong has been unwell since Aisyah's release and is not in a position to testify. Huong stood in the dock and responded to the judge's questions on the deferment request, saying she suffered from tension and stress. "I have no idea what is going on," she said.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 19-001

COMMERCIAL RIDING MOWERS
NMC CREES SAIPAN, ROTA and TINIAN RESEARCH STATION

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of New Commercial Riding Mowers for CREES Saipan, Rota and Tinian Research Station.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Monday (March 11th, 2019) between the hours of 9: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award # 2018-31100 (Regular)

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., April 09, 2019, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O, AsTerlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.
For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via email or hand delivery to Robert Suzuki (robert.suzuki@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Robert Suzuki
NMC Acting Procurement Manager

/s/ Patricia Coleman
Interim Dean-Director, NMC CREES

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
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E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 19-002

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 5 NEW VEHICLES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of 5 New Vehicles (4 each Delivered to the NMC-CREES Main Office on Saipan and 1 each Delivered to NMC-CREES Station on Tinian).

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Friday, March 15th between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via email to Robert Suzuki (robert.suzuki@arianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., April 15, 2019, CNMI date and time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 19-002 packet attention Mr. Robert Suzuki at email robert.suzuki@marianas.edu.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2018-31100 (Regular) / Smith Lever Act section 3b & 3c, award#2015-41100.

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Robert Suzuki
Acting Procurement & Property Manager

/s/ Patricia Coleman
Interim Dean of CREES

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DFEMS-063

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2019 TIME: 9:00 A.M

"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) SURFACE PRO6 TABLET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMS

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-NMHC-064

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2019 TIME: 9:30 A.M

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "E" VEHICLE FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR, NMHC

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

World

Venezuelan city devastated by looting during power outages

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (AP)—Bakeries, butcher shops, hardware stores, malls, hotels, pharmacies—these were just some of the hundreds of businesses that were looted and vandalized in Venezuela's second-largest city during nationwide power outages.

There were no reports of further unrest in Maracaibo on Wednesday, the day after the looting, as people formed long lines outside shops that hadn't been damaged and were selling food. But business leaders said devastation to the city's commercial life, of a kind unseen elsewhere in Venezuela during the blackouts, would complicate efforts to provide staple goods to people in the region.

"It was total madness," said Ricardo Acosta, a vice president of a business association in northwest Zulia state, of which Maracaibo is the capital.

He said looters sacked a cigarette factory and even stole the furniture from a church during a rampage Monday and Tuesday. An estimated 500 businesses were looted, he said.

The power outages that started during the evening rush hour on March 7 caused havoc across Venezuela, shutting down water pumps and phone and internet service for millions who were already struggling with widespread shortages of food and medicine amid the hyperinflation ravaging the country's economy.

The blackouts aggravated Venezuela's political standoff between opposition leader Juan Guaido, who said government corruption and incompetence caused the outages, and President Nicolas Maduro, who alleged that the United States and Guaido sabotaged the power grid.

Venezuelan authorities said they had made significant progress in restoring electricity, though some areas remained without power Wednesday.

Zulia has some of the poorest districts in Venezuela, and opposition sentiment is strong there. But some residents said hoodlums took advantage of the mood of desperation and looted whatever they could, including shoes, clothing and cellphones.

Venezuela's largest private food supplier, Empresas Polar, said a distribution center and a production plant for Pepsi-Cola Venezuela were hit during the chaos. So were a pasta plant and a beer distributor. The supplier reported the loss of large quantities of food, water and other drinks, vehicles, computers, office furniture and other items.

The damage to small businesses was particularly sad because many had donated meat, bread and other perishable goods to the hungry, realizing that the food would go bad without refrigeration, said Acosta, the business leader.

He said security forces did little to protect private property, instead stepping aside or watching as looters plundered shops.

Mayor Willy Casanova, however, said security forces in the city dispersed "criminals" trying to take advantage of the power cuts.

Videos posted on social media showed chaotic scenes of crowds roaming the streets and breaking into buildings. In some cases, shots were fired as guards or security forces attempted to fend off the looters before retreating.

UK lawmakers vote against no-deal Brexit, now aim for delay

LONDON (AP)—In a tentative first step toward ending months of political deadlock, British lawmakers voted Wednesday to block the country from leaving the European Union without a divorce agreement, triggering an attempt to delay that departure, currently due to take place on March 29.

Parliament is scheduled to decide Thursday whether to put the brakes on Brexit, a vote set up after lawmakers dealt yet another defeat to Prime Minister Theresa May amid a crisis over Britain's departure from the EU.

The lawmakers' 321-278 vote has political but not legal force, and does not entirely rule out a chaotic no-deal departure for Britain. But it might ease jitters spreading across the EU after lawmakers resoundingly rejected May's divorce deal on Tuesday. Exiting the EU without a deal could mean major disruptions for businesses and people in the U.K. and the 27 remaining EU countries.

In chaotic scenes that revealed how May's authority has been eroded by Brexit battles, more than a dozen pro-EU government ministers abstained rather than vote with her against ruling out no-deal.

Speaking with a raspy voice after weeks of relentless pressure, May hinted that she plans to make a third attempt to get lawmakers to support her Brexit deal, which they have already rejected twice.

She said Parliament faced a "fundamental choice"—a "short, technical extension" if lawmakers approve a divorce deal with the EU in the next week, or a much longer delay to Brexit if they don't.

The EU warned that voting against no-deal Brexit wasn't enough to stop it. By law, Britain will leave the EU on March 29, with or without a deal, unless it cancels Brexit or secures a delay.

"There are only two ways to leave the EU: with or without a deal," a European Commission official said. "The EU is prepared for both. To take no deal off the table, it is not enough to vote against no deal - you have to agree to a deal."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the unresolved situation.

Earlier, chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier warned that "the risk of a no-deal has never been higher."

As Britain teeters ever closer to the edge of the Brexit cliff, lawmakers are trying to seize control from the divided and squabbling government, although it's far from clear if they can agree on a way forward. There are competing factions that support May's deal, a "softer" deal that would keep close ties with the EU, a no-deal Brexit, or even a new referendum on Britain's EU membership.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT
(W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Brilliant Star School
Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2019
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 22, 2019

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education or related field, plus at least two years of teaching experience and two years of supervisory experience in a similar setting. A background in Montessori teaching or knowledge thereof is a plus.

SALARY/BENEFITS:
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (Including 401K benefits, Health insurance, Paid Leave/Holidays.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Social Media).
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills/Filing & Document Management.
- Ability to adapt to changing situations.

Interested Applicants may obtain full job description and employment application form at the Brilliant Star office on Navy Hill or via email to Richard Sikkel at principal@brilliantstar.org. Completed application forms and required documents may be submitted at the Brilliant Star office or via email at principal@brilliantstar.org. The Brilliant Star office can be reached for inquires at (670) 323-7827

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Brilliant Star Employment Application form
2. Resume
3. Copy of Diploma

Other documents may be requested and must be submitted to be considered for this position. Your application must be received on or before the submission deadline.

Off The Wall

Winter rescue: Stranded dog winched to safety on helicopter

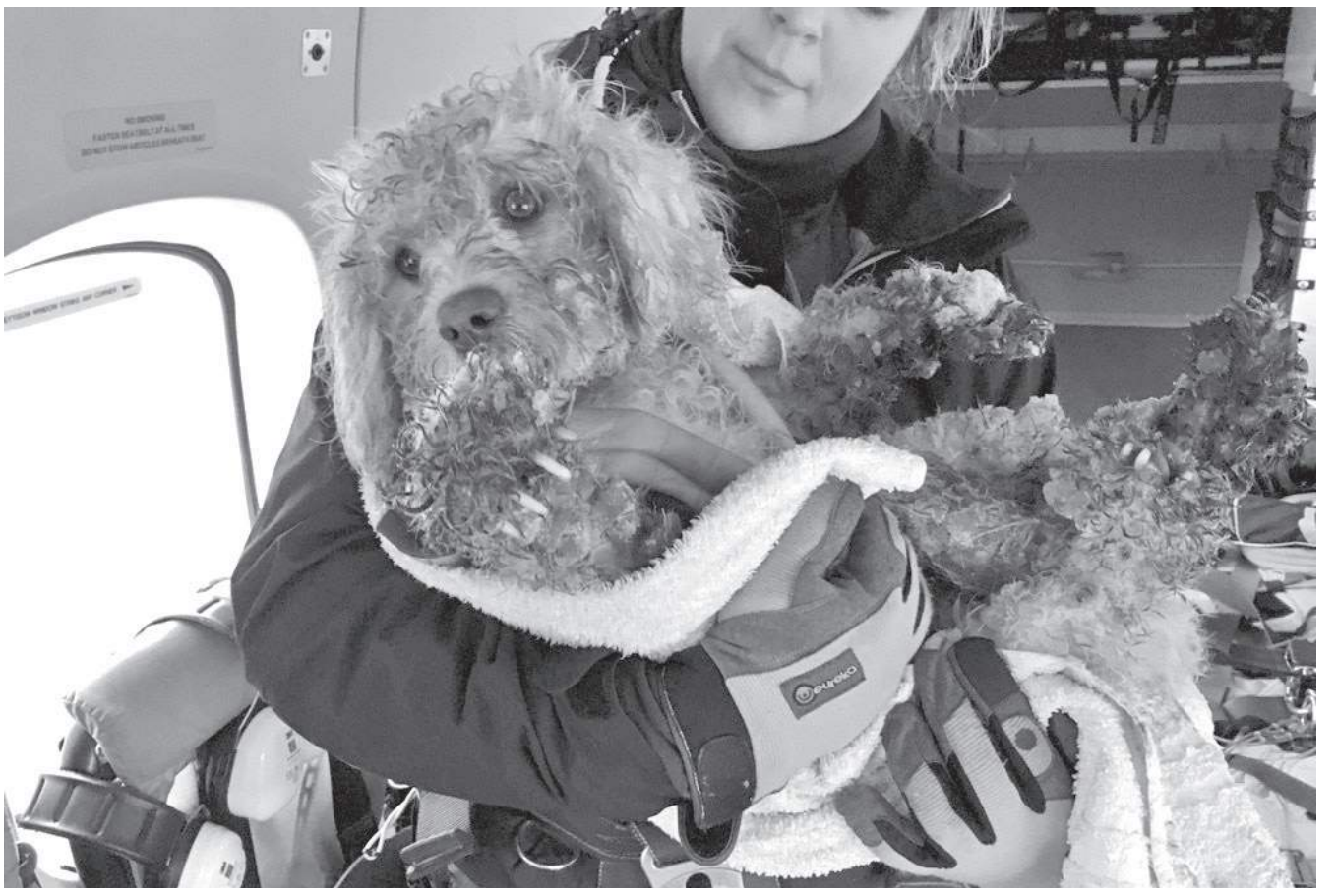
LONDON (AP)—It was a routine winter training mission in northeastern Scotland until the Maritime and Coastguard Agency crew spotted a stranded dog on the snowy Cairngorms mountains below.

They couldn't fly away and leave the dog in trouble, so winchman Mark Stevens on Wednesday was lowered to the ground, scooped up the cold and frightened animal, and both were raised back to the helicopter.

The dog, named Ben, was cuddled and warmed on board before being rushed to a veterinarian.

It turns out Ben had been missing for two days in dangerous weather caused by Storm Gareth.

Officials say Ben has recovered from exposure and has been reunited with his owner.



AP

In this image provided by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, winchman Kate Willoughby holds Ben the dog after he was rescued in the Cairngorms in Inverness, Scotland, Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Vermont town elects a goat as honorary mayor

FAIR HAVEN, Vt. (AP)—A 3-year-old Nubian goat named Lincoln is poised to become the first honorary pet mayor of the small Vermont town of Fair Haven.

The nanny goat was chosen this week by townspeople for the one-year post at the community's Town Meeting Day. Lincoln takes office Tuesday.

The ballot of 16 pets was open to all town residents. Most of the other candidates were dogs and cats; a gerbil named Crystal also was a candidate.

Lincoln, with 13 votes, beat out a dog named Sammie that received 10 votes. The other candidates combined for 30 votes.

During its time as mayor, Lincoln will be expected to attend local events, such as marching in the Memorial Day parade wearing a custom-made sash.

Fair Haven, a town of about 2,500 along the border with New York just west of Rutland, does not have a human mayor.

Town Manager Joseph Gunter said he heard about a small town in northern Michigan trying something similar and he thought it would be a good way to raise money for a local playground. It only raised about $100 through a $5 entry fee, but it provided other benefits.

"It was a great way to introduce the elementary school kids to local government," he said.

The balloting for pet mayor was held alongside the regular Town Meeting Day vote, but any town resident could vote.

Cat that lived 6 years in Alaska general store gets evicted

HOMER, Alaska (AP)—A cat named Stormy that has spent more than six years as a fixture in a remote Alaska general store is being forced out after officials notified the store owners that the cat's presence violates food safety standards.

The Fritz Creek General Store near the small city of Homer has been home for Stormy since 2012, The Homer News reported Thursday.

The slightly overweight black cat often lounges on one of the store's wooden chairs or solicits customers for a scratch on her head.

The state Food Safety and Sanitation Program received a complaint about Stormy and an environmental health officer saw the cat in the store, said Jeremy Ayers, section manager for the agency.

State food safety code prohibits pets in facilities that serve food, except for police dogs and service animals.

Enforcement of the pet prohibition is not usually high on officials' priorities list, but the complaint and the officer's observation meant that action needed to be taken, Ayers said.

Stormy is part of the store's and the rural community's culture, said Linda Chamberlain, who frequents the general store. Several people visit the shop just to greet the cat, she said.

Certain regulations may work in Alaska metropolitan areas like Anchorage, but they do not always account for special circumstances in other places, Chamberlain said.

Stormy might even make the store more hygienic, said Al Breitzman, a Fritz Creek regular, who said the cat helps reduce the rodent population.

The general store is owned by Sean Maryott and Diana Carbonell. They didn't return the newspaper's call seeking comment.

Sean Maryott's sister, Bridget Maryott, said Stormy will live with her family.

Mystery good Samaritan enables man's $273M lottery win

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—An unemployed New Jersey man who won last Friday's $273 million Mega Millions jackpot said he wants to reward the mystery person who returned the tickets to a store where he'd left them a day earlier.

Mike Weirsky said at a news conference with lottery officials Thursday that he bought the tickets last Thursday at a Quick Check store in Phillipsburg, near the Pennsylvania border, and forgot them there because he was more focused on his cellphone.

Someone found them and gave them to the store to hold. When Weirsky returned on Friday, he verified the tickets were his and store employees returned them.

Lottery officials said Thursday that if the person who found the tickets had held onto them and signed them, they could have claimed the jackpot.

"I'm looking for the guy that handed them in, I want to thank him," Weirsky said. "I'm going to give him something, but I'm going to keep that private."

The 54-year-old says he got divorced last fall and had been a stay-at-home husband for years while his wife worked. He said he'd been looking for work for about a year and hadn't gotten any calls for interviews—until Wednesday, by which time work had ceased to be a priority.

"I had to deny it before I even went," he said.

Weirsky says he's going to "sit back and enjoy" the money. He said the first thing he's going to do is buy a new pickup truck, then buy his mother a new car and pay to remodel her home.

"After that I'm basically locked in to what my lawyer and other people I have working for me tell me I can do," he said.

Weirsky, who has been playing the lottery for years, said he checked the tickets at home on Sunday and saw he'd matched the numbers, but couldn't quite believe his eyes. He went back to the store during Sunday night's snowstorm and got the news.

Taiwan plane's wheel rolls off Philippine runway, all safe

KALIBO, Philippines (AP)—Everyone on a Taiwanese plane has disembarked safely after one of the plane's wheels got stuck in the grass off a Philippine runway.

Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines spokesman Eric Apolonio says all the 122 passengers and an unspecified number of crewmen were safe and the Far Eastern Air Transport plane was towed to the airport terminal in central Kalibo town for inspection.

Apolonio says the McDonnell Douglas MD-83 aircraft was maneuvering at the end of the runway after touchdown when one of its wheels rolled onto the grass late Wednesday.

Apolonio says the airport, a gateway to the popular Boracay beach island, reopened after more than an hour of closure.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman picks matching numbers 30 times to win lottery game

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A Virginia woman parlayed a feeling to purchase 30 lottery tickets with the same numbers to win $150,000. Deborah Brown says she purchased 20 Pick 4 tickets with the numbers 1-0-3-1 after seeing those numbers "a couple of times during the day." She then bought 10 more because she was really feeling it. The number combination won the Feb. 11 drawing and each ticket was worth $5,000. Brown says she "nearly had a heart attack." She's considering using the multiple prizes for home renovations.

In deceit proposal: Feds say man wed stranger to stay in US

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Prosecutors say a couple was panhandling along a North Carolina road when a foreigner pulled over with a proposal for the woman: Marry him so he could stay in the country, and they'd receive $12,000 along with payments for a house and car. Citing court records, The News & Observer reports that 31-year-old Melissa Anne Godshall accepted the offer from 44-year-old Levan Lomtatidze, a native of the country of Georgia. Her boyfriend, 46-year-old Robert Kennerly, served as a witness during the marriage ceremony. The U.S. attorney's office says all three are now indicted on charges involving marriage fraud. News reports didn't include comments in their defense.

Germany: Woman cries 'murder' over car blocking garage

BERLIN (AP)—German police say officers called to investigate a murder arrived to find that the woman who had reported it just wanted someone to remove a car blocking her garage. The woman, who wasn't named, rang emergency dispatchers early Thursday and claimed that her husband had been killed, sending police and first responders rushing to the scene in the Bavarian town of Berchtesgaden. German news agency dpa quoted a spokesman for southern Upper Bavaria police, Stefan Sonntag, saying: "The woman thought, if she calls in a murder the police will get there faster." The woman, who was visibly drunk, attempted to get into her car before officers took away her keys. She can expect a hefty bill and a criminal investigation for misusing the emergency number.

Science & Technology

Don't panic: How parents can deal with internet hoaxes

By MAE ANDERSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

The latest parental panic on social media—over a purported challenge for kids to complete harmful tasks—elevates the importance of establishing an open dialogue with children and taking advantage of online parental controls.

Warnings about the "Momo challenge" swept Facebook and other social media in recent days, as parents worried about purported videos that encourage children to hurt themselves or do other harmful tasks such as turning on stoves without telling their parents. The parental warnings were accompanied by a disturbing image of a grinning creature with matted hair and bulging eyes.

But the challenge is believed to be a hoax. It's unclear how many videos exist or to what extent they have circulated, among children or elsewhere. Some of the videos might have been made in response to media attention surrounding the challenge. Meanwhile, the image of the grinning creature is reportedly from a Japanese sculpture.

Fact-checking site Snopes said the challenge first appeared in mid-2018 linked to suicide reports without actual evidence. YouTube said it hasn't received "any recent evidence of videos showing or promoting the Momo challenge" on its service.

So why the panic? Experts say internet hoaxes focused on children tap into fears that parents have about protecting their children online and elsewhere. In addition to anxiety about "screen time " in general, there is certainly plenty of problematic videos that children shouldn't watch. It's hard for parents to police everything children do online. Fears were compounded when some school systems, local media and even police sent out their own warnings, accompanied by fuzzy facts.

"All moral panics feed on some degree of reality, but then they get blown out of proportion," said Steve Jones, a professor of communications at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

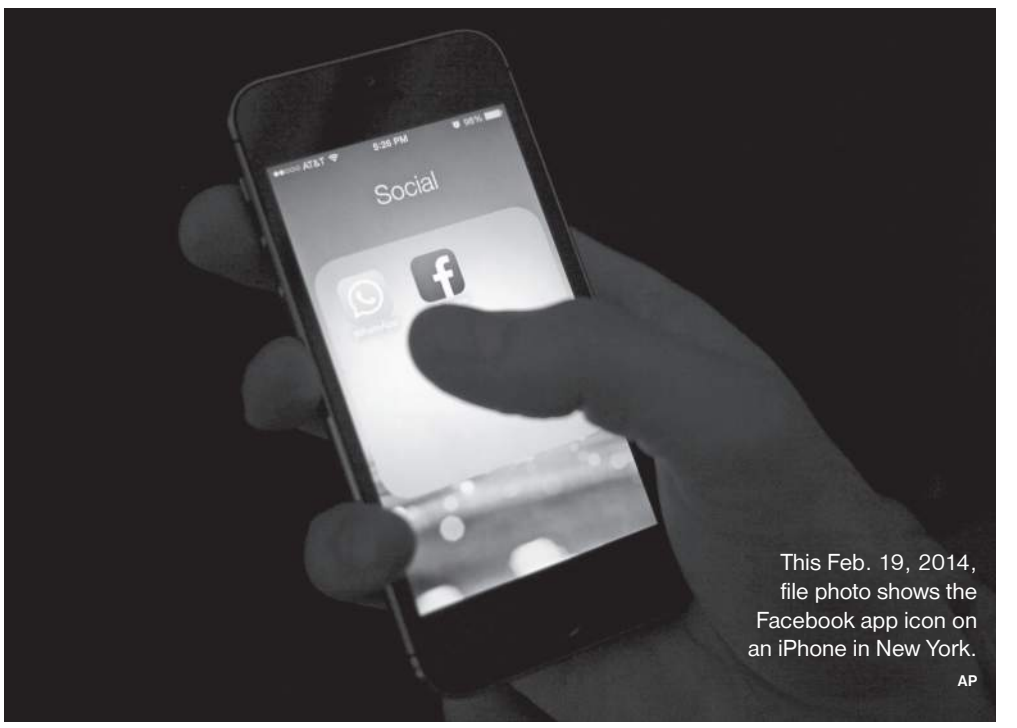
These hoaxes echo panics from decades past, like the false belief in the 1980s that teenagers were hearing Satanic messages in rock song lyrics, he said.

"Once the internet is involved in the mix, things get speeded up and they get more widespread," Jones said.

The most important thing parents can do is to establish an open dialogue with their children about what they're seeing online and hearing from other children, said Jill Murphy, editor-in-chief at Common Sense Media, a San Francisco-based nonprofit group focused on kids' use of media and technology.

"Parents are increasingly frustrated with feeling surprised or caught off guard by what is being put in front of their kids," she said. Whether the "challenges" are real or not, she said, "they elevate the idea that they may or may not know exactly what their kids are absorbing through these platforms."

That's why talking to children is important, she said. "Take the right time to have an age-appropriate conversation, and help your kids understand not everything on the internet is real."



This Feb. 19, 2014, file photo shows the Facebook app icon on an iPhone in New York. AP

Facebook, Instagram suffer outages

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook says it is aware of outages on its platforms including Facebook, Messenger and Instagram and is working to resolve the issue.

According to downdector.com, which monitors websites, the outages started around 12 p.m. EDT on Wednesday in parts of the U.S., including the East and West Coast, parts of Europe and elsewhere. Both Facebook's desktop site and app appeared to be affected. Some users saw a message that said Facebook was down for "required maintenance."

Facebook did not say what was causing the outages. As of 4:45 EDT service was restored to some but other users were still reporting problems.

Via its Twitter account, Facebook said the outage was not due to a "distributed denial of service" or DDoS attack, a type of attack that hackers use to interrupt service to a site.

Science Matters
Robotic telescopes work in dark places
Hundreds of professional and amateur astronomers are doing serious observing with remote-control telescopes – set up under dark skies far from their back yards.
In a very dark sky, details of the Milky Way, galaxies and 6th magnitude stars are visible to the unaided eye
A dark site, far from town
Cities – and even small towns – create light pollution, interfering with astronomers' view of the sky
Lights of cities and towns, seen from orbit
4.0 5.0 6.0 7.0 8.0
Sky light scale
Dark
Very dark
Roof slides open
Telescopes
A group observatory
Dozens of sophisticated, private telescopes are set up at observatory; their owners pay observatory for space, sevices
Sliding roof protects telescopes, computers and data communications
Telescope set up for astrophotography
Telescopes controlled remotely
Their owners can point and operate them remotely via the Internet; their digital images flow into a data storage system
Digital camera
Colored light filters
Accessing images
Observatory is linked to a high-speed fiber optical data line; lets users see their images immediately
Typical speed: 100 megbytes per second
Cooled to aid sensitivity
Motors turn tube to follow stars, move to new target
Source: Lloyd Smith of Deep Sky West Remote Observatory (Rowe, N.M.); NASA; telescope photo courtesy of Richard Higby Astrophotography
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Tech Q&A: Blocked malware download keeps trying

Q I've been getting a pop-up at the bottom of my screen that says, "Do you want to open or save ImgSync from image8.pubmatic.com?" My choices are open, save or cancel. I've clicked "cancel" or just closed the message box without responding, but the message always comes back. I've run the Malwarebytes security software and another program called "Computer Cleaner," but neither finds any malware to delete. What is this thing, and how can I get rid of it?

A Your Norton antivirus software is protecting you from advertising malware. You were right to click "cancel," saying "no" to the download.

That should have been the end of it. The recurring message means the malware is trying again and again to download to your PC. And that indicates the malware is coming from a website that you visit frequently.

The website that's identified in your message belongs to Ads.pubmatic.com, a service that distributes advertising from many different companies to websites. However, some unscrupulous companies use the ad distribution service to place malicious software on otherwise legitimate websites. This malicious software is called "drive-by" malware because it automatically tries to download to any computer that visits the infected site.

Because your PC doesn't appear to be infected yet, you can protect yourself against future download attempts by installing a free security add-on for your browser. The most popular one, Adblock Plus, blocks dangerous or intrusive ads (tinyurl.com/klmoy35).

For the benefit of other readers whose PCs may already be infected, Norton-maker Symantec Corp. suggests using the program to run a "full system scan" that should find any installed malware and delete it. As a second line of defense, Symantec recommends running the free version of Malwarebytes (see tinyurl.com/jsdacdk).

If Norton and Malwarebytes together can't do it, try an alternate removal method that involves using your PC's Control panel to uninstall any suspicious programs, then running Malwarebytes and the free versions of two other security programs, HitmanPro and AdwCleaner (see tinyurl.com/ya2djnvp).

Q I've been trying to customize the appearance of different folders in Windows Explorer. I like to choose the file details that are displayed, such as "content type" or "authors." But whenever I customize a single folder, Windows 7 makes that change in every folder on the PC. How can I customize some folders without changing all of them?

A Before Windows 7, you could check a box in Windows Explorer to "remember each folder's view settings." For reasons that aren't clear, Microsoft removed that choice in Windows 7, which means you can only choose one type of folder view for everything on your PC.

But there are solutions. Microsoft offers some automated repair software for files and folders (see tinyurl.com/hoj6xub) that is supposed to fix several issues, including the customization of individual folders.

If that doesn't solve the problem, there is a technical workaround (see tinyurl.com/y2mnkcke).

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

Coaches and parents in college scheme find jobs in danger

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Colleges and companies moved swiftly to distance themselves from employees swept up in a nationwide college admissions scheme, many of them coaches accused of taking bribes and others prominent parents accused of angling to get their children into top schools by portraying them as recruited athletes.

That celebrities were among the accused parents—actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman headline the list—created much buzz, but other parents charged included people prominent in law, finance, fashion, manufacturing and other fields—people who could afford the steep price.

At least nine athletic coaches and 33 parents were among those charged. Some parents spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, as much as $6.5 million, to guarantee their children's admission, officials said.

"Every student deserves to be considered on their individual merits when applying to college, and it's disgraceful to see anyone breaking the law to give their children an advantage over others," U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said in a statement Wednesday. "The department is looking closely at this issue and working to determine if any of our regulations have been violated."

Among the parents charged was Gordon Caplan, of Greenwich, Connecticut, co-chairman of the law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher, based in New York. Caplan "will have no further firm management responsibilities," the firm said in a statement Wednesday.

Telephone messages seeking comment have been left with Caplan, who is accused of paying $75,000 to get a test supervisor to correct the answers on his daughter's ACT exam after she took it.

Hercules Capital, a Palo Alto, California, hedge fund, announced Wednesday it was replacing its leader, Manuel Henriquez, who has been arrested in New York City and released on $500,000 bail. Henriquez will still hold a seat on the board and serve as an adviser, Hercules said.

Henriquez and his wife, Elizabeth, of Atherton, California, were charged with participating in the scheme on four occasions for their two daughters. They were also charged with conspiring to bribe Gordon Ernst, former head tennis coach at Georgetown University, to designate their older daughter as a tennis recruit to facilitate her admission and with making a $400,000 contribution to a charity to help her get admitted to the school.

In success for 'Captain Marvel,' a defeat for trolls

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

This image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Brie Larson in a scene from "Captain Marvel." AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Captain Marvel possesses superhuman strength, cosmic awareness and, it turns out, the ability to vanquish trolls.

Marvel's "Captain Marvel," the superhero factory's first movie fronted solely by a female hero, last weekend notched the sixth largest global opening ever and in five days of release has already sold $524.1 million tickets worldwide, Disney said Wednesday. That was despite the efforts of a vocal minority to sabotage the movie's release in a campaign to lower audience scores and disseminate false information about the film's star, Brie Larson.

It's a playbook borrowed from the political realm and brought into the movie theater. And the movies that have drawn such attention have, more times than not, starred women in franchises previously dominated by males. But after similar campaigns against "Ghostbusters" and "The Last Jedi," Hollywood studios are fighting back, as are sites like Rotten Tomatoes and YouTube.

Paul Feig's 2016 female-led "Ghostbusters" remake, which Donald Trump himself spoke out against, was among the first films to be targeted by users rating it lowly on sites like the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) before the film was even released. On YouTube, it was the most disliked trailer ever.

A similar strategy was employed on Rian Johnson's "Star Wars Episode VII: The Last Jedi," which—like "Ghostbusters"—had, and continues to have, genuine detractors who simply didn't like the movie. But there were concerted efforts to amplify criticism of "The Last Jedi," which notably expanded the "Star Wars" universe with new heroes like Laura Dern's resistance leader and Kelly Marie Tran's maintenance worker. Tran eventually deleted her Instagram account after months of harassment.

So when Johnson and Feig saw similar attempts being made ahead of the release of "Captain Marvel," they recognized the handiwork.

"Pretty much the new 'Certified Fresh' badge," said Johnson , linking to an article about review bombing on "Captain Marvel." ''What a sad, sad pathetic group of people are who organize to do things like this," said Feig .

The amplified backlashes to both "The Last Jedi" (which opened strong but faded) and "Ghostbusters" (which disappointed altogether) appeared to hurt the films' bottom lines.

But the tide may be turning. The same Facebook group that organized to vote down "The Last Jedi" also went after Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther." That time, though, both Facebook and Rotten Tomatoes moved to counter the group, which was removed from Facebook. "Black Panther" became the third highest grossing film of all time domestically, not accounting for inflation.

And "Captain Marvel," which drew a majority male audience (55 percent), similarly showed no signs of any ill effect .

"If those trolls had any negative impact on the box office, somebody point it out to me because I just don't see it," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "The trolls, they're not going derail a movie like this. For the fans, they love Marvel, they love the brand. Other than a terrible movie, nothing would dissuade the Marvel fans and the movie fans from coming out and seeing a film."

Marvel, whose 21 films have earned a combined $18 billion in global box office, is indeed about as unassailable as any studio ever has been. "Captain Marvel" was also cunningly positioned as a need-to-see appetizer to "Avengers: Endgame," due out April 26.

S. Korean police questioning 2 K-pop stars in sex scandals

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—After their stunning retirement announcements, two K-pop stars including a member of the superstars Big Bang are facing police questioning over a series of interlocking scandals that have roiled South Korea for weeks.

Live TV footage showed solo singer Jung Joon-young arriving at a Seoul police station on Thursday where more than 100 journalists gathered to wait for appearance. Police have alleged 29-year-old Jung secretly filmed himself having sex with about 10 women and shared the footage with friends by a mobile messenger app.

"I feel very sorry for causing concerns to the people and will faithfully undergo an investigation," Jung told reporters before entering the police station. Jung on Wednesday issued a statement saying he admits to having videotaped such footage without consent from the women on the clips and that "I get down on my knees and apologize" to the victims and all others disappointed and angered over his acts. He said he would stop all his activities in the entertainment industry.

Jung's scandal flared while police were investigating his friend, K-pop star and entrepreneur Seungri, over an allegation that he attempted to provide prostitutes to his business investors.

Prostitution is illegal in South Korea, but illicit sex businesses thrive in the shadows in the country. Toughening laws and police crackdowns have forced out traditional red-light districts throughout South Korea, but men can still easily buy sex at massage parlors and barber shops, and through online sites.

Seungri, whose real name is Lee Seung-hyun, is to appear at the police station later Thursday. He was allegedly among eight men on a Kakao Talk group chatroom where Jung posted his sex videos.

Seung-ri has denied the allegations against him, but the 28-year-old on Monday announced his retirement as his scandals grew.

Seungri is a big name in South Korea's entertainment industry, as part of the five-member Big Bang, one of the most successful bands in K-pop. Since its debut in 2006, Big Bang has attracted huge, loyal followings in Asia and around the world. Forbes magazine reported in June 2016 the band took home $44 million in pretax earnings in the previous year, more than the $33.5 million collected by then the highest-paid American all-male arena pop group, Maroon 5.

A series of recent scandals has exposed the dark side of South Korea's booming yet ultra-competitive entertainment industry. South Korean pop songs, TV dramas and films are hugely popular in Asia and beyond, but male stars have faced allegations of sexual assault and abuse and reports have been made that female trainees forced to provide sexual services to men in power.

Many K-pop stars are recruited by talent agencies as teenagers, some elementary school students, and they often sleep, eat and train together before making a debut. Some suicides have occurred among celebrities in the industry.

Some observers say the ongoing scandals also reflect a bigger social problem of rampant sexual crimes against women.

Attorney: Brothers regret role in alleged Smollett scheme

CHICAGO (AP)—The attorney for two brothers accused of helping stage an attack on "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett in downtown Chicago says the men regret their involvement.

Gloria Schmidt represents Abimbola "Abel" and Olabinjo "Ola" Osundairo. She told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the brothers agreed to help Smollett because of their friendship with him and the sense that he was helping them in their careers.

Schmidt says the brothers have come to realize how much the incident has negatively affected minorities and particularly victims of actual hate crimes.

Smollett is charged with lying to the police about being the victim of a racist and homophobic attack by two masked men. He allegedly paid the Osundairo brothers $3,500 to help him stage the attack.

Smollett is expected to enter a plea on Thursday.

Lawyers slam restoration of Hernandez conviction

Attorneys for late NFL star Aaron Hernandez are criticizing the state's highest court decision to reinstate his murder conviction.

The Supreme Judicial Court on Wednesday scrapped the legal principle that erased Hernandez's conviction after he killed himself in prison. It also ordered Hernandez's conviction to be restored.

The ruling doesn't impact any other past cases.

Hernandez's lawyers say they plan to ask the court to reconsider the reinstatement of Hernandez's conviction.

They say there is no reason the new rule should be applied to Hernandez's case and that the court "departed from its usual standards in coming to this decision."

Hernandez was found guilty in 2015 of killing semi-professional football player Odin Lloyd.

The 27-year-old was found dead in his prison cell in April 2017, days after being acquitted of most charges in a separate double-murder case.

10:15 a.m.

Massachusetts' highest court has reinstated former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez's murder conviction.

The Supreme Judicial Court on Wednesday scrapped the legal principle that erased Hernandez's conviction after he killed himself in prison, and ordered the onetime football star's conviction be restored.

Hernandez was found guilty in 2015 of killing semi-professional football player Odin Lloyd.

The 27-year-old former football star was found dead in his prison cell in April 2017, days after being acquitted of most charges in a separate double-murder case.

Prosecutors said the legal principle was unfair to victims and outdated.

Under the new rule laid out by the court, the conviction will stand but the court record will note the conviction was neither affirmed nor reversed because the defendant died while the appeal was pending. ***(AP)***

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Alicia Keys memoir 'More Myself' coming on November

NEW YORK (AP)—Alicia Keys has a memoir coming out in November, to be published by Oprah Winfrey's imprint. Flatiron Books announced Wednesday that Keys' "More Myself" will be released Nov. 5 through Winfrey's "An Oprah Book" imprint. Flatiron is calling the memoir a "360-degree perspective" on her life, from her childhood in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan to her spectacular, Grammy-winning rise. Financial terms were not disclosed. Keys said in a statement that she was "ecstatic" to share her life story, alongside her "sister, mentor and friend Oprah." Winfrey said in a statement she was a longtime Keys fan who felt "honored" to publisher her book.

Hugh Jackman heading back to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Jackman is coming back to Broadway as a classic roguish traveling salesman. Producer Scott Rudin said Wednesday the two-time Tony-winner will star in a revival of the Meredith Willson musical "The Music Man" starting in September 2020. As con man Harold Hill, Jackman will sing such favorites as "Ya Got Trouble," ''Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Gary, Indiana." The production will be directed by Tony winner Jerry Zaks, with choreography by Tony winner Warren Carlyle, reuniting much of the creative team of the Tony-winning revival of "Hello, Dolly!" starring Bette Midler. This will be the third revival of the beloved show. Others who have played Hill include Craig Bierko, Eric McCormack, Dick Van Dyke and Robert Preston, whose performance remains enshrined in Broadway legend, not to mention available the 1962 film version.

Kesha to headline Dan Reynolds' LGBTQ festival LOVELOUD

NEW YORK (AP)—Kesha wants you to bring as much glitter as possible and sport the brightest colors of the rainbow when she visits Utah in June to headline the LOVELOUD Festival, the LGBTQ+ event founded by Imagine Dragons' frontman Dan Reynolds.

And if you're "skeptical or don't understand the LGBTQ community," Kesha invites you to attend to help change your perception.

"Please come and let me know if you don't have the best time ever at this show because it's going to be such a celebration of love. I think it's going to be pretty undeniable to be sitting in an arena full of love, and not feel how beautiful of a feeling it is," Kesha said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Others set to perform June 29 at the USANA Amphitheatre in West Valley City, Utah, include Martin Garrix, Tegan & Sara, Laura Jane Grace, Daya, K. Flay, Grouplove, PVRIS and Reynolds, who is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the Mormon church. Reynolds, who has been an ally to the LGBTQ community for years, launched LOVELOUD as a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel love and accepted, and to have an open dialogue about teen suicides in the LGBTQ+ community.

Reynolds

Kesha

Last year's festival featured Apple CEO Tim Cook and raised $1 million dollars for organizations like The Trevor Project, GLAAD and the Human Rights Campaign. It has set the same goal this year.

"To have a festival that essentially is a gay rights festival and have people from the faith community come out (and) people from the political realm come out ... just shows that communities and people that society thinks are on very different sides of the page can come together," Reynolds said. "It was the far left, the far right. It was religious and non-(religious) all coming to the table and saying, 'What can we do to fix this problem?'"

In his 2018 HBO documentary, "Believer," Reynolds showed Latter-day Saint leaders that opposition to same-sex relationships is damaging the self-worth of gay, lesbian and transgender kids. Reynolds, 31, said the festival's goal is to "destigmatize what it means to be LGBTQ especially in these orthodox communities."

"I think with each passing year, we feel like we're making headway; just making it such a conversation in so many homes that it becomes a non-conversation. That's the goal obviously, ultimately, so kids don't have to come out. Kids don't feel like it's this grand, scary thing in front of them," he added.

Kesha, 32, said that growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, she had a "hard time with religion and what it meant in conjunction with LGBTQ rights."

"I think it can be confusing," Kesha said. "I just want people to know that whichever side you're on of the conversation to try to approach it delicately because there are people who just need to feel heard and want to feel safe and OK. That's a huge part of why I want to do this festival. Everyone deserves to be who they are, and to be proud of who they are."

Tickets for LOVELOUD, in its third year, go on sale Friday. The festival will be live streamed on AT&T's social media platforms.

Italian police identify 6 suspects in fake Modigliani show

ROME (AP)—Italy's art police say they have identified six suspects in connection with a 2017 Modigliani exhibit that was comprised mostly of fakes.

The Carabinieri art squad announced Wednesday that the suspects include an artist who may have counterfeited works of Amedeo Modigliani, two collectors, including an American who procured most of the contested works, the head of the agency that organized the exhibition and its curator.

The show had traveled through lesser-known venues before arriving in Genoa, where the connection to the Ligurian-born artist and the upcoming 100th anniversary of his death in 2020 increased both public interest and expert scrutiny.

The show hastily shut down three days before its scheduled close in 2017, with experts saying that 20 of the 21 paintings it displayed were fakes. Consumer rights groups have demanded refunds for ticket buyers.

Italian prosecutors will now determine if there is enough evidence to back charges, which are then decided by a preliminary hearing judge.

Modigliani died in poverty, but his portraits featuring elongated faces and necks are among the most recognizable artworks of the early 20th century.

Child's accusations against cousin cause rift in family

DEAR ABBY: My brother and sister-in-law recently told me their 5-year-old son claims my 9-year-old son touched him inappropriately on several occasions. Understanding that any parent believes what their child says, I asked my son if he has ever touched or done anything inappropriate to anyone. His response was, "Why would I do that?"

My husband and I asked our son about it on several different occasions and got the same answer. Not wanting to pressure him to the point of coercion and force him to admit to something he did not do, I accepted his denials.

My brother and his wife are convinced my son did these heinous things to their son. What more is there for me to do? My son and I are now being shunned and barred from being around any of my brother's kids.

SHUNNED IN COLORADO

DEAR SHUNNED: A young child might make a statement like the one your nephew did to get attention, get the other child in trouble OR because he is being touched inappropriately by someone else. This certainly bears further exploration, and the people who should do that are your brother and his wife.

If your son ends up being guilty, then you and your husband must investigate where this behavior came from and get him professional help. Until this is resolved, the children should be kept apart.

DEAR ABBY: The other day, I was checking numbers on my contacts list in my phone. It has been years since I purged any, so I sent out a few texts with just the person's name. Later, I woke up around 3 a.m. and couldn't get back to sleep, so I checked my social media.

I returned two emails, then saw I had a response to one of my texts which read, "???" So I texted back my name. Next thing I knew, my phone was ringing. It was an acquaintance from years ago. I answered, even though I could have let it go into voicemail, because I didn't want to be rude. However, the last thing I wanted to do was have a 3 a.m. conversation with this person—or any person, for that matter.

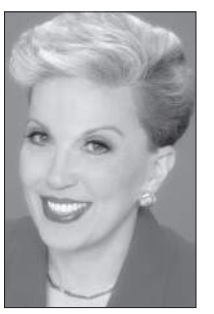
In my opinion, a phone call is different from a text. Calling me at 3 a.m. was inappropriate, bordering on rude. The other person contends I shouldn't have texted that late if I didn't want to talk. I have put this matter of contemporary communication etiquette out there, and the feedback I'm receiving on the subject is divided. What do you think?

TEXT ETIQUETTE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TEXT ETIQUETTE: What I think is that YOU owe the person an apology for having disturbed him or her in the wee hours of the morning and, while you're at it, explain that you didn't think your text would be seen until after sunup.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I get my hair done at the local beauty school. When I pay, there is no room on the bill to leave a tip. Is it OK not to tip these people because they are in school, or should I plan on bringing cash with me next time?

WONDERING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WONDERING: If you like the service the student performed, show your gratitude (and respect!) by bringing along enough money to tip him or her. That's what I would do, as long as there is no school rule that forbids it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

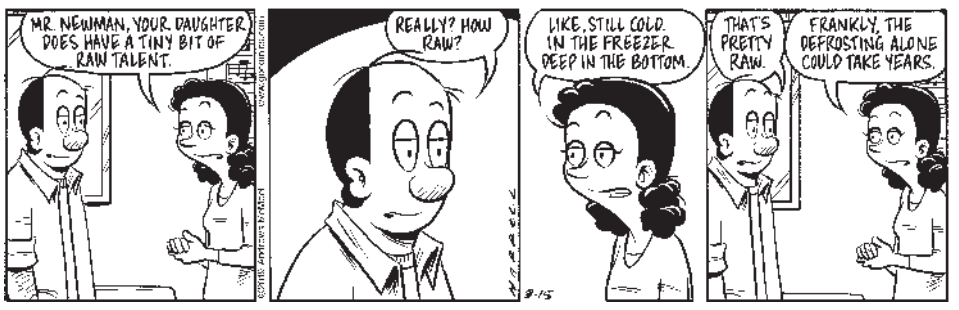
LOOK, HOBBES! DAD FIXED MY BEANIE!
WELL? HOW'S IT LOOK?
ADJECTIVES FAIL ME.
I'M TURNING IT ON. READY? HERE GOES.
I DON'T SEEM TO BE LIFTING OFF. THIS IS VERY PECULIAR.
THAT'S THE WORD I WAS LOOKING FOR.
THBBTPTHBB

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

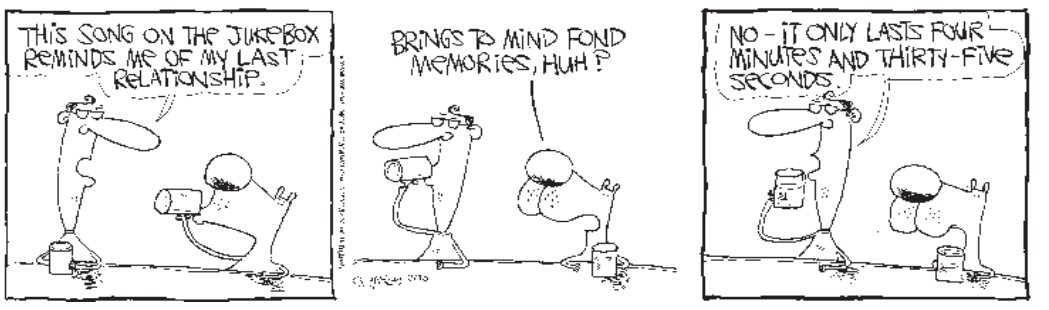
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MR. NEWMAN, YOUR DAUGHTER DOES HAVE A TINY BIT OF RAW TALENT.
REALLY? HOW RAW?
LIKE, STILL COLD. IN THE FREEZER. DEEP IN THE BOTTOM.
THAT'S PRETTY RAW.
FRANKLY, THE DEFROSTING ALONE COULD TAKE YEARS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS SONG ON THE JUKEBOX REMINDS ME OF MY LAST RELATIONSHIP.
BRINGS TO MIND FOND MEMORIES, HUH?
NO - IT ONLY LASTS FOUR MINUTES AND THIRTY-FIVE SECONDS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Slander in print
6 L-P link
9 Old map letters
12 Fred's dancing partner
13 Goal
14 Salt Lake athlete
15 Lightweight wood
16 "Lust for Life" punk rocker
18 Duration
20 Sea predator
21 "I'm not impressed"
23 Poseidon's home
24 Serpentine
25 "— a roll!"
27 Lent a hand
29 Live-in nanny
31 Mine vehicle
35 Call on
37 Activist Parks
38 Island porch
41 Stitch
43 Resistance unit
44 "Oops!"
45 Proverbial burg
47 1987 Peter Weller film
49 Hotel posting
52 CBS logo
53 Group of two
54 Said something
55 ISP alternative
56 Norm (Abbr.)
57 Plains shelter

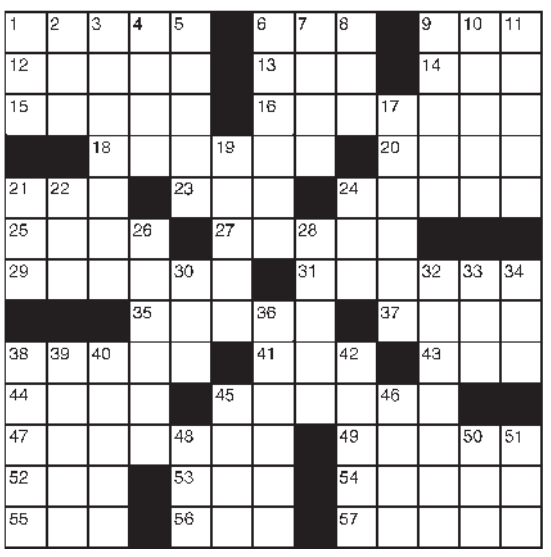
DOWN

1 Science room
2 Writer Tarbell
3 Hotel staffer
4 Otherwise
5 Inclines
6 Rum cocktail
7 At hand
8 Texter's "Wow!"
9 Toyota model
10 Inventory
11 Settle a debt
17 There
19 Bike components
21 Ms. Farrow
22 Ostrich's kin
24 Sun. talk
26 Arizona tribe
28 Fawned (on)
30 Jr.'s son
32 Stove workspace
33 Fireplace residue
34 Zodiac animal
36 14-legged crustacean
38 Enticed
39 Greetings at sea
40 Prestigious prize
42 German sausage
45 Sulk
46 Scruff
48 LPs' successors
50 Scrape (out)
51 Observe

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	S	K		G	A	G		S	T	A	T
A	L	L	A		I	R	A		J	H	O	H
R	A	I	N		A	I	R		R	O	N	A
D		M	S	L	M		B	A	R	M	E	N
			A	M	A			Y	E	P		
M	U	S	S		T	F	N	N	Y	S	C	N
A	N	O			T	O	F			O	N	A
S	O	N	A	T	I	N	A		S	N	C	R
		G	R	R			T	R	E			
P	T	B	O	A	T		N	E	P	H	E	W
S	H	I	M		A	B	E		T	A	D	A
S	E	R	A		T	I	S		E	R	I	N
T	A	D	S		A	R	S		T	F	T	F

Yesterday's answer 3-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kellan Lutz, 34; will.i.am, 44; Eva Longoria, 44; Bret Michaels, 56.

Happy Birthday: A change is overdue. Look at your lifestyle, your dreams and what's possible to find a way to make improvements that will encourage better relationships with those you love as well as with those you work alongside. Teamwork will pay off, and give-and-take will lead to greater equality with those who count. Channel your energy wisely. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 28, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make adjustments to avoid causing a problem. Keeping the peace will help you steer clear of emotional backlash that can disrupt your home and family. Focus on personal improvements, not trying to change someone else. Keep your life simple. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consistency and continuity will make a difference to the way your day unfolds. Refuse to let little things get to you or let someone's pushiness cause you to unravel. Surround yourself with people who put you at ease and support your actions. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Concentrate on finishing what you start. Refuse to let anyone take over or interfere with your plans. Being secretive will help you avoid opposition. Make personal achievements your priorities. Walk away from indulgent situations and excessive behavior. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Concentrate on what needs to be done. Your determination and discipline will make an impression on someone in a position to help you get ahead, but it will also make someone competing with you jealous. Avoid an unnecessary clash. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't get angry; get moving. Avoid getting sidetracked by people who aren't conscientious regarding responsibilities and doing a good job. Once you are happy with the results you get, you'll have plenty of time to have fun without stress. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate in the things that bring you joy. Getting together with people who motivate you will encourage partnerships that can help you advance at a quicker rate. Traveling, going to trade shows and sharing ideas will open windows of opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. Don't make promises you cannot keep or spend money you don't have. If you need a break or a change, make it simple, affordable and something that will help you relax and rejuvenate. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take a day trip or go on a shopping spree. Sign up to learn something new, or spend time with someone you find informative. Look for a way to expand your ideas and to fulfill a creative dream. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Walk away from anyone who has bad habits or is trying to get you to indulge in something that isn't good for you. False information will be offered if you question a deal someone is offering you. Thorough research is encouraged. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do good things and get good things in return. Interacting with someone who has the same goal in mind will make life easier. Changes at home look promising and should add to your comfort and entertainment. Host an event. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Question someone's stability if you feel pressured to get involved in something that seems to be missing a key element. Success happens when all the components fit together. Execute your plans succinctly. Don't take a risk. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Home improvements will lead to appreciation. A positive change in a relationship with someone important will require you to be open about what you want and what you are willing to give in return. Stick to truth and moderation. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are empathetic, intuitive and engaging. You are adaptable and descriptive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7				5			
			3			9	4	
5		2	9					
				9	4			
4							3	
		1	8					
			2		1		6	
9	3		7					
		5				8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	8	6	1	3	9	7	5	2
5	3	2	6	4	7	9	8	1
1	7	9	2	8	5	6	4	3
7	4	8	9	2	6	3	1	5
3	9	5	8	1	4	2	7	6
2	6	1	7	5	3	8	9	4
8	2	7	4	6	1	5	3	9
6	1	3	5	9	8	4	2	7
9	5	4	3	7	2	1	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TYPES OF GOVERNMENT **Solution:** 10 letters

R	P	O	L	I	T	Y	M	S	I	X	R	A	M	C
E	O	Y	C	A	R	C	O	M	E	D	D	U	O	O
G	L	T	K	R	O	A	C	I	V	I	C	N	N	M
I	I	E	I	U	E	R	Y	E	C	C	F	I	A	M
O	C	I	N	U	L	C	C	T	I	E	P	T	R	U
N	Y	C	G	A	A	O	A	L	D	O	E	A	C	N
A	I	O	W	R	N	T	B	E	W	V	O	R	H	I
L	R	S	E	O	O	U	R	E	T	O	V	Y	Y	S
L	U	D	M	R	P	A	R	L	I	A	M	E	N	T
T	E	I	S	E	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	A
F	C	H	R	I	N	Y	C	A	R	C	O	E	H	T
S	I	C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	V	E	E
P	E	N	I	D	E	L	E	G	A	T	E	S	O	L
E	T	A	V	I	R	P	S	U	P	R	E	M	E	U
N	C	I	T	I	Z	E	N	S	Q	L	A	Y	O	R

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Autocracy, Citizens, Civic, Communist, Confederation, Conservative, Council, Delegates, Democracy, Dictatorship, Economics, Federacy, King, Laws, Marxism, Monarchy, Parliament, Policy, Polity, Power, President, Private, Queen, Regional, Republic, Rogue, Royal, Rule, Seat, Society, State, Supreme, Theocracy, Unitary, Vote

Yesterday's Answer: Vitamin D

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(3) GROUND MAINTENANCE

Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Also performs grounds keeping duties and other related duties as assigned. Minimum qualifications: 3-12 months of related work experience, with a high school or GED diploma.

All positions close 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center.
Applications should include a resume.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Financial Manager
Hours: Full-Time
Company: Yaong Corporation
Location: Unit 6 Rem Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

Duties and Responsibilities:
Responsible for managing the accounting department, reviewing and ensuring the quality of the accounting department, ensuring the company's financial reports are produced in a timely manner and adhering to accepted accounting principles, and overseeing the internal audit process of the company. Responsible for the development of accounting policies, systems & procedures, special financial studies and other important aspects of the company's accounting department. Supervises and audits the work of accounting staff to ensure quality and timeliness, as well as compliance with the accounting standards and procedures of the company. Responsible for and engages in critical and confidential aspects of the company's accounting and financial records. Monitors and analyzes accounting data and produces financial reports or statements. Plans, budgets manpower, creates work schedule for the conduct of the company's annual fiscal year-end inventory count. Coordinates and completes annual audits with external auditors. Ensures monthly, quarterly and annual tax reporting, submissions, and compliances are met in timely manner.

Qualification Requirements:
A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with five (5) years experience in the area of financial statement preparation, payroll, accounts payable and accounts receivable, inventory management including year-end physical inventory, fixed assets management, and accounts reconciliation. Experience working with an automated financial management system. Knowledge and ability in the use of personal computers and software applications. Strong organizational and analytical skills, the ability to maintain detailed records, and the ability to work effectively under pressure. Able to communicate both orally and in writing. Must be able to work a varied schedule including holidays and weekends when required. The applicant must successfully complete a background check.

To apply:
Please send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribiyan Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Those claiming degree credentials must send a copy with resume. Background check may be required prior to employment. Random drug testing may be required before employment and during employment.

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi BBQ Garden Restaurant

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

Applicants of all positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.
We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

BUILDING SPACE FOR RENT

- 1400 SQUARE FOOT
- 1000 SQUARE FOOT

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Addition of Brown 'changed everything' for Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)— Rookie general manager Mike Mayock and coach Jon Gruden had meticulously put together a plan to rebuild the Oakland Raiders with three first-round draft picks and a couple of smart free agent signings when they suddenly got sent in a different direction last week.

The Pittsburgh Steelers were willing to trade the NFL's most prolific wide receiver for two mid-round draft picks, assuming the Raiders could come to terms on a new contract for Antonio Brown.

"When we discovered we might have a chance for his services, it changed everything," Mayock said Wednesday after the Raiders officially added Brown as their first big move of the new league year.

The Raiders dealt third- and fifth-round picks in the upcoming draft to the Steelers and gave Brown a new three-year contract worth $50.125 million, a relatively small price to pay for a player who has averaged more than 100 catches and 1,500 yards receiving per season over the last six years.

The trade ended a very messy and very public divorce between Brown and the team that helped mold him from a sixth-round pick into arguably the greatest wide receiver of his generation.

"Pittsburgh will always be my family," Brown said. "Those guys gave me a chance when I was a 21-year-old kid. People listen to the things that are being said and written. At the end of the day, it's all about how you make people feel. I think I made people feel really great and really inspired the way they watched me go to work, the way they watched me play. ... I know Steeler Nation is having a bad day today, but it's always love."

Mayock and Gruden have admired Brown from afar during their time as broadcasters, with both calling him the hardest-working practice player they have ever seen.

The 30-year-old Brown was an All-Pro four straight years from 2014-17 and is the first player ever with at least 100 catches and 1,200 yards receiving in six straight seasons. His 686 catches and 9,145 yards since 2013 are the most ever for any player in a six-year span.

"He's done everything in his power to be the best he can possibly be on and off the field," Gruden said. "His body of work is not only impressive, but fun to watch. He's electrifying after the catch, he's a great competitor, he wins the 50-50 ball, he's outstanding in short areas. You have a great imagination as a football coach when you coach a man like this. He can play split end, he can play flanker, he can play in the slot. He can return punts and sell popcorn at halftime. We're excited about this guy."

Brown is one of several additions the Raiders have made to start the new league year. They agreed to a four-year, $66 million deal with tackle Trent Brown to bolster the line and a four-year, $42 million contract with safety Lamarcus Joyner during the negotiating period.

Brown, a former seventh-round pick, got the richest deal ever for an offensive lineman after helping New England win the Super Bowl after being traded from San Francisco.

"What took my game to the next level was just going to an organization who believed in me," Brown said. "A locker room full of guys who just believed in each other, pushed each other. We worked hard as a team every day. No egos. Just confidence shot through the roof. I've kind of felt disrespected about the trade and I wanted to prove everybody wrong."

They also added another receiver Wednesday, signing former Chargers deep threat Tyrell Williams to a four-year deal worth a reported $44 million.

Williams had 41 catches for 643 yards and five touchdowns last season. He has averaged 16.3 yards per catch for his career, the fifth-highest mark among players with at least 100 catches since he entered as an undrafted free agent out of Western Oregon in 2015.

The additions of Antonio Brown and Williams on the outside and a top pass blocker in Trent Brown should help quarterback Derek Carr regain the form he had when he was one of the better quarterbacks in the league in 2016 before regressing the past two years.

Carr and Brown have already started working out together at a nearby park and are excited to see what they can do on the field.

"It's refreshing," said Brown, who clashed with Ben Roethlisberger during the end of his time in Pittsburgh. "I think he's hungry for success, hungry to turn the organization around, hungry to get on the winning side of things. I'm just hungry for the same things."

The Raiders also completed a trade that sent guard Kelechi Osemele and a sixth-round pick to the Jets for a fifth-round pick.

AP
Oakland Raiders wide receiver Antonio Brown, right, holds his jersey beside coach Jon Gruden during an NFL football news conference, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Alameda, Calif.

Beckham trade makes Browns dangerous team

Talk about feeling dangerous, Baker Mayfield.

The Cleveland Browns have pulled off the stunner of the week by giving their young quarterback one of the most dynamic weapons in the game as they agreed to acquire three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. from the New York Giants.

Cleveland forked over a first-round pick (No. 17 overall), a third-rounder and safety Jabrill Peppers in exchange for Beckham.

Tuesday night's move continues a string of aggressive actions executed by Browns general manager John Dorsey since he began his reclamation project of the long-suffering franchise last offseason. This time last year, Dorsey acquired wide receiver Jarvis Landry from the Miami Dolphins and signed him to a five-year, $75 million contract with $47 million guaranteed. Dorsey pulled off two additional trades and signed eight impact players in free agency before drafting Mayfield first overall and cornerback Denzel Ward at No. 4 to lay the foundation for a 7-8-1 campaign – the most successful for a Browns franchise that had won a combined four games in the three previous seasons.

But that wasn't enough.

Dorsey has picked up where he left off, determined to give first-year head coach Freddie Kitchens the most potent roster possible.

People around the league anticipated another aggressive offseason for Dorsey and the Browns, in part due to the GM's track record last season and the fact that Cleveland entered this week with roughly $70 million in salary-cap space. Those predictions proved prescient. Last month, Cleveland signed running back Kareem Hunt (who remains on the commissioner's exempt list as he waits the outcome from a league investigation into potential violations of the personal-conduct policy). In the last week, the Browns added pass rusher Olivier Vernon and defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson.

But a move like this? Very few—if anyone—around the league could have anticipated this.

It never seemed very likely that the Giants would actually part with Beckham, although his discontentment with the franchise was no secret despite his signing of a five-year, $90 million contract extension that featured $65 million in guaranteed money last August. Beckham's new average salary of $18 million made him the highest-paid wideout in the game. As the losses mounted in New York last season, and as Eli Manning's effectiveness waned, Beckham publicly criticized the quarterback and his coaches.

Rumors of a potential Beckham departure from New York had popped up here and there this offseason. But just two weeks ago at the NFL Scouting Combine, when asked about the receiver's status with the team, general manager Dave Gettleman seemed to squash such talk when he said, "We didn't sign him to trade him, OK?"

OK.

That statement didn't even stand true for a month. And so continues a bizarre period of time for a Giants franchise mired in dysfunction.

Gettleman sent OBJ packing after paying him $21.5 million for 12 games, and the Giants will absorb another $16 million in dead cap money. Multiple teams had inquired about Beckham's availability, according to people familiar with the situation, and the haul offered by the Browns obviously proved sufficient.

Beckham was even stunned himself to learn of the trade, according to NFL Network's Kim Jones. But he will get over that shock quickly. He's joining his former LSU teammate and close friend Landry to form an explosive tandem for Mayfield – one of the most promising young stars in the league.

Beckham is known for his supreme talent, but in recent years, he also has become infamous for his volatile ways. However, now paired with Landry and hitched to a quarterback with potential and swagger in Mayfield, Beckham should be able to rediscover his smile and ability to focus entirely on torching defensive backs.

The Browns most likely aren't finished shopping in free agency, but even as their roster currently stands, they have a real shot at taking over as the favorites to win the AFC North, which also would make them a threat to return to the playoffs for the first time since 2002. The Browns, according to FanDuel, entered the offseason with 40-1 odds to win the Super Bowl, and now after acquiring Beckham, those odds have improved to 17-1.

Bad day for No. 1s: Djokovic, Osaka eliminated

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)—It was a tough day for seeded players at the BNP Paribas Open on Tuesday, with Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka, the world's top-ranked players, ushered out in the desert.

Djokovic and Philipp Kohlschreiber resumed their third-round match that was suspended because of rain a night earlier. The unseeded German knocked off the five-time tournament champion 6-4, 6-4.

Osaka lost to Belinda Bencic 6-3, 6-1 in just over an hour in the fourth round of the first title defense of her career.

"She sort of came out there really aggressive," Osaka said. "She sort of knew what she wanted to do more than me."

Since Osaka won the title at Indian Wells a year ago, she won the U.S and Australian Opens. Her triumph in Australia made her No. 1 for the first time, but her time at the top has been rocky. Osaka fired her coach and lost in the first round in Dubai before taking on a new coach, Jermaine Jenkins, who came on court during the match.

"It's always a bit tricky whenever you change someone in the team, but I feel like for a first tournament we did really well," Osaka said. "We communicate well, so I think that's a really big plus. I don't think it's going to be difficult."

On Tuesday, the 23rd-ranked Bencic served and returned better.

Venus Williams reached the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Mona Barthel. She'll next face No. 8 Angelique Kerber, who beat No. 9 Aryna Sabalenka 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

"I haven't played that much, so I wanted to make it count," said Williams, who is ranked No. 36 and expects to play about 12 tournaments this year. "I need to do what I want, and what I want is to play the tournaments I want to play."

Djokovic, meanwhile, owned an 8-1 record against Kohlschreiber, who beat a No. 1 player for the first time.

Kohlschreiber liked the weather—sunshine and temperatures in the low 70s—much better than the cold and rain on Tuesday night.

"I liked my chances more at night against Kohlschreiber, but it wasn't to be last night," Djokovic said. "Completely different conditions today. I congratulate him for playing tactically really well and getting me out of my comfort zone. He deserved to win."

The 35-year-old German started thinking he had a chance early in the first set when he survived a handful of break points on his serve.

"I would say after 3-all in the first set I felt like getting closer to the set, holding my service games, which is not easy against Novak, because he's such a great returner," Kohlschreiber said. "I know from that point on it's going to be a very interesting match."

Djokovic was just 1 for 5 on break-point opportunities. Kohlschreiber converted three of his four chances.

Next up for Kohlschreiber is Gael Monfils, who owns a 13-2 record against the German.

Djokovic remains alive in doubles with partner Fabio Fognini. Djokovic returned about an hour after his loss for their match.

"When I hit a good return, I was wondering why this didn't happen in singles," he said.

Also ousted were No. 6 Kei Nishikori, No. 10 Marin Cilic and No. 14 Daniil Medvedev.

AP
Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot to Philipp Kohlschreiber at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Tuesday, March 12, 2019 in Indian Wells, Calif.

In women's fourth-round matches, No. 2 Simona Halep lost to Marketa Vondrousova 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; and No. 7 Kiki Bertens was beaten by 20th-seeded Garbine Muguruza 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Bianca Andreescu, an 18-year-old Canadian, beat 18th-seeded Wang Qiang 7-5, 6-2.

Nadal, Federer advance

The bottom half of the men's draw still includes No. 2 seed Rafael Nadal and fourth-seeded Roger Federer, both of whom breezed to victory.

Nadal eased by 25th-seeded Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-1, while Federer defeated Swiss countryman Stan Wawrinka 6-3, 6-4.

"Overall it's not been easy playing Stan," Federer said. "He feels the same way, so that's very awkward sometimes."

Tiger back on track after neck pain

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods no longer has a pain in the neck.

The trick going forward for Woods is to make sure the soreness that caused him to withdraw from the Arnold Palmer Invitational doesn't keep him from missing more tournaments the rest of his injury-filled career.

"I'm 43 with four back surgeries so must manage what I have and understand that I'm going to have good weeks and bad weeks and try and manage as best I possibly can and not push it," Woods said Tuesday after a nine-hole practice round at The Players Championship.

"There are times when over the years I pushed it, pushed through a few things, and I've won a few tournaments doing it that way," he said. "But also, I've cost myself a few years here and there because of it."

Woods chose not to push it last week by skipping Bay Hill, where he has won eight times.

He had fusion surgery on his lower spine in April 2017—his fourth surgery on his back in four years—and it allowed him to return to a level that saw him win last year at the Tour Championship, play in another Ryder Cup and return to the top 15 in the world ranking.

Woods said his neck first bothered him last summer at the British Open, where he was seen wearing kinesiology tape, and at times during a big stretch of tournaments during the FedEx Cup playoffs.

It flared up again at the Genesis Open last month, and then got worse in Mexico City the following week.

"It was getting to the point where it was affecting my setup, my backswing, my through swing," Woods said. "It was just gradually getting worse. That's just because my lower back is fused, and so the stress has to go somewhere if I don't have movement, and so it's very important for me going forward since the surgery to keep pliable or else the stress is going to go somewhere else."

Woods did not want to commit to a pre-Masters schedule until after The Players was over.

The Valspar Championship next week is where he was runner-up last year. That's followed by the Dell Technologies Match Play, a World Golf Championship for which he had not been eligible since 2014.

Asked specifically about Match Play, Woods said, "If nothing flares up, then I'll play."

Either way, he was not concerned about being prepared for the Masters, which starts April 11, as he tries to end 10 years without winning a major. Assuming this week goes well and he goes to Texas for the Match Play, that would give him five tournaments before the Masters.

Woods played between five and six times before the Masters during younger and healthier times over the last 15 years.

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Durant-less Warriors end Rockets' 9-game streak

HOUSTON (AP)— In his first season with the Golden State Warriors, DeMarcus Cousins hasn't quite adjusted to the level of scrutiny and interest that comes with playing for the defending back-to-back NBA champions.

And after his best game of the season on Wednesday night in a win over the Houston Rockets, Cousins likened the media frenzy surrounding the team to a soap opera his grandmother watched every day when he was a child.

"I'm sure y'all have heard of it— "As the World Turns." She called it her stories. I used to watch it with her and every episode it was something," he said. "That's what this has turned into—"As the World Turns.""

So does Cousins, who scored a season-high 27 points to help end Houston's nine-game winning streak with a 106-104 win, want to star in the basketball version of the show?

"No I don't," he said. "I play basketball. I don't look for the drama or stories or anything like that. I just want to go play basketball."

Some have wondered if Cousins is a good fit with this fast-paced team and there have been some growing pains as he's been worked into the team after missing the first 47 games this season recovering from an Achilles' tendon injury.

But on Wednesday, with Kevin Durant out with an ankle injury, Cousins shined. He added eight rebounds and a season-best seven assists as Houston searched, without success, for ways to stop him. There were times the Rockets switched on defense and left much smaller players attempting to guard the 6-foot-11, 270-pound player. But big or small, Cousins didn't care who's was on him.

"I don't think anybody can stop me one-on-one period," he said. "So you can put whoever you want on me honestly."

Klay Thompson scored 30 points to allow the Warriors to bounce back after a loss to Phoenix on Sunday, and avoided being swept by Houston after the Rockets won the first three meetings this season.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Shaun Livingston (34) shoots as Houston Rockets' Austin Rivers (25) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Houston. The Warriors won, 106-104.

Golden State, which had lost six of 10 overall, is 4 1/2 games ahead of Houston atop the Western Conference standings. The Rockets are tied with Oklahoma City for third place behind Denver.

After trailing by 14 in the fourth quarter, a three-point play by Chris Paul got Houston within one with 10.8 seconds left. Stephen Curry made two free throws with eight seconds remaining to make it 106-103, and James Harden hit one of two from the line at the other end with 6.4 seconds to go. The miss on the second one bounced high off the rim and was rebounded by Andre Iguodala, securing Golden State's victory.

Harden was unhappy that they didn't play good defense until late in the game.

"We locked in and we got stops and we knew who we were guarding," he said. "We knew who we wanted to score, (but) we should have been knowing that the entire game."

Harden had 29 points and 10 assists for the Rockets, but shot just 2 of 12 on 3-pointers. Paul finished with 24 points.

"We just had too many mistakes," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Curry added 24 points for Golden State. Durant missed the game with a sprained right ankle.

Thunder 108, Nets 96

In Oklahoma City, russell Westbrook scored 31 points in his 26th triple-double of the season, and the Thunder beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Westbrook added 12 rebounds and 11 assists for the 130th triple-double of his career.

Paul George scored 25 points and Jerami Grant added 15 for the Thunder, looking to secure home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 25 points for the Nets, who won their previous four games.

Heat 108, Pistons 74

In Miami, Justise Winslow scored 16 points and Miami opened the second half with a 21-0 run on the way to an easy win over Detroit.

It was the biggest spurt and largest victory margin this season for the Heat, who are trying to hang on in the Eastern Conference playoff race. Dion Waiters scored 14 points and Dwyane Wade had 11.

Blake Griffin scored 13 points for the Pistons, who have dropped consecutive games for the first time since late January.

Miami (32-35) is still No. 8 in the East, two games ahead of No. 9 Orlando and two games back of No. 7 Detroit.

Andre Drummond fouled out with 6:30 left and finished with five points and nine rebounds—snapping his run of 19 consecutive double-doubles, which left him tied with Bob Lanier for the Pistons record.

Wizards 100, Magic 90

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 23 points, Thomas Bryant had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Washington made up a little ground in the Eastern Conference playoff race with a win over Orlando.

Jabari Parker added eight of his 19 points in the fourth quarter to help the 11th-place Wizards move within 1 1/2 games of the ninth-place Magic. Washington improved to 2-0 on its five-game homestand and remained 3½ games behind Miami for the final postseason spot.

Bryant and Parker each went 9 of 12 from the field off the bench, with Bryant's performance coming one game after he was limited to two points and a single rebound in 14 minutes.

Hawks 132, Grizzlies 111

In Atlanta, John Collins had 27 points and 12 rebounds, Trae Young added 22 points and Atlanta snapped Memphis' three-game winning streak.

It marked the most points that the Grizzlies, who lead the NBA in scoring defense, have allowed this season.

C.J. Miles scored a season-high 33 points and Mike Conley finished with 20 for the sluggish Grizzlies, who never had a lead.

Jazz 114, Suns 97

In Phoenix, Donovan Mitchell knows his team is in good position as it pursues a Western Conference playoff spot. He just wasn't sure exactly where the Utah Jazz were in the standings, until right before Wednesday night's game.

"I really don't pay attention to that stuff this time of year," Mitchell said after leading the Jazz to a win over the Phoenix Suns. "I try my best not to, because it allows you to get all distracted. We just want to focus on game to game."

Mitchell scored 16 of his 26 points in the second half and Derrick Favors added 18 for Utah. Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 20 rebounds as the Jazz ended a two-game skid and pulled into a tie with the Los Angeles Clippers for the seventh seed in the West.

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Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	48	20	.706	—
Philadelphia	43	25	.632	5
Boston		41	27	.603 7
Brooklyn	36	33	.522	12 1/2
New York	13	55	.191	35

Central Division

x-Milwaukee 51	17	.750	—	
Indiana	43	25	.632	8
Detroit	34	32	.515	16
Chicago	19	50	.275	32 1/2
Cleveland	17	51	.250	34

Southeast Division

Miami	31	35	.470	—
Orlando	31	37	.456	1
Charlotte	30	37	.448	1 1/2
Washington	28	39	.418	3 1/2
Atlanta	23	45	.338	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Golden State	45	21	.682	—
LA Clippers	39	30	.565	7 1/2
Sacramento	33	33	.500	12
LA Lakers	31	36	.463	14 1/2
Phoenix	16	52	.235	30

Southwest Division

Houston	42	25	.627	—
San Antonio	39	29	.574	3 1/2
New Orleans	30	40	.429	13 1/2
Memphis	28	40	.412	14 1/2
Dallas	27	40	.403	15

Northwest Division

Denver	44	22	.667	—
Oklahoma City	41	26	.612	3 1/2
Portland	41	26	.612	3 1/2
Utah	37	29	.561	7
Minnesota	32	36	.471	13.0

x- clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Messi helps Barcelona beat Lyon to reach CL quarters

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Just when the Camp Nou crowd was getting nervous, Lionel Messi turned a close game into a complete rout.

Messi scored two goals before setting up two more for teammates as Barcelona beat Lyon 5-1 on Wednesday to reach the Champions League quarterfinals for a 12th straight season.

After a 0-0 draw in the first leg, Luis Suarez helped Barcelona go 2-0 up by halftime by earning a penalty converted by Messi and then setting up Philippe Coutinho to score.

Lucas Tousart gave the visitors hope with a goal in the 58th minute after Barcelona failed to clear a corner kick. That meant Lyon only needed one more goal to go through, but Messi scored again in the 78th before passing for Gerard Pique and substitute Ousmane Dembele to round off the big win.

"We suffered unnecessarily for a while after they made it 2-1," said Messi, who matched Xavi Hernandez's club record of 476 career victories. "We complicated things by letting our guard down on a set piece. After the 3-1 we could calm down."

Messi's goals were his seventh and eighth in the Champions League this season and took his tally to 36 in all competitions for Barcelona.

With the win, Barcelona set a Champions League record of 30 consecutive home matches without a loss that dates back to September 2013.

Barcelona also stayed on course for a possible treble of titles. It leads the Spanish league and has reached the final of the Copa del Rey.

In Wednesday's other game, Sadio Mane scored twice as Liverpool advanced with a 3-1 win at Bayern Munich.

The quarterfinal draw is on Friday.

Record field for Agape in Saipan Marathon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School runners pose at the 2019 Saipan Marathon photo booth after completing their races last Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Agape Christian School students head to the finish line of last Saturday's 2019 Saipan Marathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School students pose with the medals they won in last Saturday's 2019 Saipan Marathon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2019 Saipan Marathon's photo booth was not big enough to accommodate Agape Christian School's 76 runners—the most that the Torchbearers fielded in the annual race.

"This is a new record for our school, as we have only 56 last year. Plus this year, we also have one parent and two staff members joining the race," Agape principal Jimeian Pang said last Saturday, as she patiently waited for every runner from their school to cross the finish line at the American Memorial Park.

SAIPAN MARATHON 2019

Pang did not have to wait that long, as majority of Agape runners rounded out the course with respectable times and several even won in their age groups.

In the 10K event, Ray Qi Jie (50:34) and Meihui Ou (1:09:36) ruled the boys and girls U15 age group. Then in the half marathon, Kristy Wang Xinyi (2:33:46) and Steve Qiu Kailun (1:59:13) were named champions in the U15 division, while Iris Zhang He and Kobe Yang (4:47:34) topped the full marathon event for the 16 to 19 age group.

Overall, Agape had 44 runners in the 10K, 20 in the half marathon, and 12 in the full.

"Seeing our students crossed the finish line gave me the greatest satisfaction last Saturday. The sense of accomplishment when they completed the whole course is so valuable to them and its memories will stay with them forever," Pang said.

The Agape principal added that they encourage their students to join sports, specifically running, to teach them lessons in life.

"I always tell them that life is like running a marathon. Many people start out together and very often they will find themselves running alone. Sometimes they will feel like quitting, sometimes they fall and develop self-pity, but no matter what happens. life has to continue just like they have to continue running no matter what," Pang said.

"When the going gets tough, the tough gets going. They have to take one step at a time until they reach the finish line because I am there waiting for them. It's the same in life…you keep going despite all the difficulties and hardship because this won't last forever. And life will end one day and Jesus, our Lord and Savior, will be waiting for us in heaven to welcome us home," she added.

Meanwhile, after the Saipan Marathon, Agape runners will be focusing on the 2019 McDonald's Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championships, which will start its series of qualifiers next week at the Oleai Sports Complex, while the events final round will be held in May.

NMSA

From Page 36

NMI Aquatics Complex (Koblerville) and upgrading of the pool in Marpi with the cost of the project pegged at $3.8 million.

Swimming is one of the sports to be offered in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, but right now the CNMI has no pool after the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool shut down in September last year. For now, Saipan swimmers are practicing at the 25-yard pool in the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and in open waters.

Besides the aquatics center and sports complex, NMSA is also proposing to have a tennis center, canoe house complex, beach volleyball courts, facilities for Public School System, the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association, and Northern Marianas College, construct a sports complex at the Coral Ocean Point property, and upgrade the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The NMSA list is included on the 198 project proposals for the CNMI's 5-year economic development plan. They will be reviewed and ranked and federal agencies will decide if a project qualifies for a particular federal program, especially under the U.S. Economic Development Authority, according to Peterka.

PERFECT

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Angels scountered with four runs at the bottom to regain the upper hand, 7-3. Ramon, Tia and Baby Camacho and Chanel Espinosa scored for the Patriots-Angels.

The Patriots-Angels were never threatened after that and closed out strong, making six runs in the fourth and fifth inning. Cass and Kiana Aldan delivered two runs each in the final two frames, giving the Patriots-Angels a 13-7 lead and Balas managed to score only three runs at the top of the last inning, ending the game in favor of the unbeaten squad.

Ayuyus 18, Niners 12

In the first girls division game, the Ayuyus downed the Niners in five innings.

The Niners got close to the Ayuyus only at the bottom of the first inning, as the latter led by three, 5-2. The Ayuyus then buckled down to work in the last four innings to secure the early win.

Kyannah Norita led the way for the Ayuyus with her three runs, while Camille Muna and Juanah Lizama added two runs apiece. Destiny Pangelinan and Monica Norita each crossed home plate twice for the Niners.

The Ayuyus improved to a 2-3 card to remain at the No. 3 spot in the team standings, while the Niners are at the bottom with their 0-5 mark.

MP

From Page 36

press time) made it a 2-0 lead three minutes later, and Katrina Costales added one more in the 28th.

A goal from Audrey Castro in the 38th minute, followed by Fiona Bucalig's shot in the 41st widened the gap between MP United and Paire before the latter rallied back. Paire nailed the next two goals in the game with Summer Manahane and Aaliuah Indalecio hitting their target in the 46th and 50th minute, respectively. The same MP United player with jersey No. 50 gave their team insurance in the 53rd minute, as she negated the back-to-back goals recorded by Anisa Villagomez.

Meanwhile, Kanoa FC and TanHoldings FC engaged in a draw, 4-4, in the other girls U16 division match played at the NMISTC.

Kanoa forced a standoff after mounting a comeback in the second half, which started with TanHoldings holding a 3-1 advantage.

TanHoldings was in control of the first half of the game, thanks to Julie Anna Capayas, Mary Joy Aniana, and Allyssa Angeles's goals in the seventh, 18th, and 21st minute, respectively. Shairmaine Francisco canned Kanoa's lone goal in the first half a minute before the opening frame wrapped up.

Francisco also went on to hit the equalizer in the 61st minute, while Paulynn Joyce's goals in the 42nd and 54th sparked Kanoa's rally. TanHoldings lost the lead and settled for the draw, as only Rizza Relucio found the back of the net in the second half (44th minute).

In other results, Southern United got a free win—its second in as many games—after Matansa failed to muster enough players for the match. With the victory, Southern United gained the solo lead in the division.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of March 9, 2019)

CO-ED U12A DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	2	2	0	0	16	1	15	6
MP United	2	1	0	1	6	6	0	3
TanHoldings	2	1	0	1	6	10	-4	3
Shirley's	2	0	0	2	1	12	-11	0

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	2	2	0	0	23	1	22	6
MP United	2	2	0	0	8	1	7	6
TanHoldings	2	1	0	1	11	3	8	3
Shirley's	2	1	0	1	1	5	-4	3
Matansa	2	0	0	2	0	13	-13	0
Kanoa-2	2	0	0	2	1	21	-20	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	2	2	0	0	14	0	14	6
TanHoldings	2	2	0	0	10	1	9	6
Matansa	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
U15 NT	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0
Kanoa	2	0	0	2	1	15	-14	0

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Southern United	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6
Kanoa	2	1	1	0	9	4	5	4
TanHoldings	2	1	1	0	7	4	3	4
MP United	2	1	0	1	6	6	0	3
Matansa	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0
Paire	2	0	0	2	4	11	-7	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Kanoa	2	2	0	0	13	6	7	6
MP United	2	1	0	1	24	6	18	3
Southern United	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
TanHoldings	2	0	0	2	3	10	-7	0
Matansa	1	0	0	1	1	21	-20	0

Addition of Brown 'changed everything' for Raiders

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Durant-less Warriors end Rockets' 9-game streak

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NMSA: Looking at 2021 Pacific Mini Games and beyond

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association is looking at a long-term goal when it submitted a 10-project proposal to the CNMI Office of the Planning and Development.

The proposal, which was turned in last month and is now included on the 2014-2019 Draft CNMI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Project Listing, aimed at giving the Commonwealth suitable facilities for the hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. The projects, which involved construction and enhancement of facilities, will also be use for the development of athletes and to boost the Commonwealth's economy through sports tourism once the Mini Games is done.

"When we made the proposal, we looked beyond the Pacific Mini Games. We want something that would be useful for us for years and would benefit the athletes and our economy," said NMSA official Laurie Peterka, who prepared the proposal with the help of Ed Arriola and Nick Gross.

On top of the proposed project list is the enhancement of the Oleai Sports Complex, which will be the main hub for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and has hosted local and international competitions for the last three decades. The complex suffered massive damage both from Super Typhoon Yutu and Soudelor and under NMSA's proposal, a funding of $7.7 million would give the facility the major facelift it needed and would accommodate more sports, plus entice vendors and other groups looking for venues for their events.

Also part of the proposal are the construction of the

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Oleai Sports Complex will be the main headquarters of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Patriots-Angels still perfect

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The Patriots-Angels maintained their unblemished record following a 13-10 triumph over Balas in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The Patriots-Angels had a good start, combining for seven runs in the first two innings and then scored three runs apiece in the last two after going cold in the third to earn a perfect 5-0 record. Balas fell to a 3-2 mark.

Cass Camacho and Kiana Aldan each reached three times with the latter's two-run homer at the bottom of the first inning handing the Patriots-Angels a 3-0 lead. Camacho scored the other run for the Patriots-Angels in the opening inning, while Aldan brought home Richelle Ramon.

After failing to cross home plate in the first inning, Balas made three runs at the top of the second to momentarily tie the match before the Patriots

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Chanel Espinosa pitches for the Patriots-Angels during their game against Balas in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

MP United wins; Southern United on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club banked on a strong start to pull off a 6-4 victory over Paire FC in the girls U16 division in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The win was the first for MP United, which dropped its season debut against Southern United FC, while Paire absorbed its second loss in as many games.

MP United scored three goals in the opening 35 minutes of play to gain cushion against Paire that was silent in the first half and failed to complete a comeback despite outgunning the former, 4-3. Lilian Podziewski lit up the board for MP United in the 19th minute, while her other teammate (player with jersey No. 50/name has yet to be confirmed by organizers at

See MP on Page 35

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Southern United Football Club goalie reaches for the ball during their girls U16 game against MP United FC in the opening week of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.